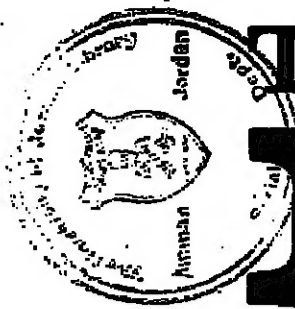


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THE JERUSALEM POST

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THE JERUSALEM POST
INTERNATIONAL EDITION

The perfect gift for
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Peres makes appeal to Shas council

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Prime Minister Shimon Peres, accompanied by cabinet secretary Yossi Beilin, called on the Shas guiding Rabbinical Council at Jerusalem's Hazon Ovadia Yeshiva at 11 o'clock last night in an effort to prevent Shas from resigning from the coalition.

Vice-Premier Yitzhak Shamir called Peres from Venezuela over the weekend on Shas' behalf.

Peres, it was learned, did not intend to discuss the details of the negotiations over the division of the Interior and Religious Affairs Ministries with the council, but to make a general statement concerning the importance of the national unity government.

Peres also intended to promise that Shas' status would not be eroded, nor would the interests of the ultra-Orthodox Sephardi communities.

The meeting was set for such a late hour because council head, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, gives a Talmud lesson after the Sabbath at the Yeshiva and could only see Peres afterwards.

Shas sources said that if Peres had nothing new to offer them, there was no point in his meeting with the council, which had ruled that Shas must withdraw from the coalition.

Negotiations with Shas over the Interior Ministry broke down last week following Shas' demand to have a deputy-housing minister appointed from its ranks — as promised by the Likud — as a condition to

agreeing to changes made in the Interior Ministry.

Since Shamir is abroad, the matter could not be approved immediately and Shas leader Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz announced his resignation. His letter of resignation, to be presented to the cabinet today, will take effect 48 hours later.

After Peretz announced his resignation, he said that Shas would only be persuaded to stay in the government if it received either the Interior or Religious Affairs Ministry in its entirety, with no changes made.

At around midnight, after the hour-long meeting, Peres emerged saying he expected an answer from Shas during the night.

Minister without Portfolio Yitzhak Peretz said there is goodwill on both sides and that therefore he was optimistic.

Only two of the four members of the Rabbinical Council were present — rabbis Ovadia Yosef and Shlomo Cohen.

Shamir called Peres and stressed the importance of keeping the coalition agreement with Shas. Shamir pressed Peres to give Shas a "whole" ministry, without any changes.

At the demand of the National Religious Party all the religious functions of the Interior Ministry were transferred to the Religious Affairs Ministry. (Continued on Page 2, Col. 5)



Prime Minister Peres at last night's 11 o'clock meeting with former chief rabbi Ovadia Yosef, extreme left, and three other Shas leaders — left to right, Rabbis Shalom Cohen, of the movement's rabbinical council, and MKs Rafael Pinhasi and Yitzhak Peretz. (Dan Landau)



Dustmen begin cleaning up the Carmel Market in Tel Aviv last night after the municipal workers' strike ends. (Andre Brutmann)

Tel Aviv strike ends as banks offer IS2b. loan

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The 11-day municipal workers' strike ended last night as sanitation workers began collecting the huge piles of garbage which had accumulated.

The municipal workers are to resume regular work today, following an agreement by commercial banks to lend the city IS2 billion to pay the workers their November wages.

The banks agreed to lend the money after the municipality informed them that it was entering into negotiations with the government over the government's demands for budget and staff cuts.

Egged yesterday cleared the central bus station area of the vast quantities of garbage accumulated during the strike at a cost of IS700,000. The bus cooperative hired 10 trucks to move the six tons of garbage.

High school teachers employed by the municipality are to return to their classrooms today, having been promised like other city employees that their November salaries will be in the banks this morning.

It is not clear whether the city will agree to all the demands, which include severe budgetary and personnel cuts, a freeze on all development projects and guarantees to repay government loans.

Senior Interior Ministry sources expressed satisfaction that the strike was over because it will enable negotiations with the city to take place without pressure.

A joint committee of the Interior and Finance Ministries is awaiting the city's response to the demands.

Senior ministry sources refused to divulge precise details of the demands made on Tel Aviv, but noted that when an agreement is reached with the city, it will be one the city will not be able to violate. In this way, government loans to the city will be guaranteed.

But Lahat's signature on the financial arrangement demanded by the Interior and Finance Ministries is insufficient for its implementation. All the members of the municipal council will have to sign it before the government accepts it. The Jerusalem Post learned.

This demand, intended to ensure that Lahat cannot violate agreements with the government as he has in the past, was called "humiliating" by the mayor.

The municipal workers organization has announced it will oppose the demand to dismiss over 700 workers and lay-off workers hired over the past six months.

The Tel Aviv branch of the Labour Party is to convene on Tuesday. (Continued on Page 2, Col. 4)

Index rose 19.5 per cent in November

Dec. inflation likely to fall below 10%—Moda'i

By AVI TEMKIN
Post Economic Reporter

Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i expects inflation to fall to single figures for the month of December for the first time since September 1983.

This prediction follows Friday's Central Bureau of Statistics announcement of a 19.5 per cent inflation rate for November. While this was higher than the 15 to 18 per cent forecast by the Treasury, the Treasury took comfort from the fact that prices at the end of the month were only 2.5 to 3 per cent higher than the month's average. Half of November's inflation was, in fact, caused by price increases in October before the current price freeze took effect.

The 19.5 per cent figure means wage earners will receive a 10.4 per cent cost of living compensation payment with their December salaries. This payment, together with the unusually low figure for price rises at the end of the month, has left the CBS with a 4 per cent inflation rate

to carry over from November to December.

In the past year, this "spillover" figure has invariably been in the order of 10 per cent and has been one factor preventing a reduction in the inflation rate.

It is November's small spillover figure that has raised Treasury expectations of single figure inflation for December.

Should prices rise by less than 10 per cent, workers will not receive any cost of living compensation with January salaries, since such compensation is paid only when inflation tops 12 per cent.

The Treasury is apparently planning to take advantage of this situation by raising the prices of basic commodities at the end of December, since workers only receive compensation for such increases with February's wages, payable early in March.

Last month's inflation brought the Consumer Price Index to 10,367.4 on a 1980-100 baseline. Retail prices, meanwhile, have increased by 425.3 per cent since January.

The low inflation rate for the end of the month shows that the package deal is slowing down price increases, all parties to the accord said on Friday.

The Treasury praised the public for its responsible behaviour during the price freeze and added that there is no shortage of products on the market and that the economy has achieved a certain amount of stability.

Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar said the inflation rate "did not meet expectations" and was worrying.

However, he added, "It showed that without the package deal, the rise would have been ominously greater," for the CPI would have topped 30 per cent.

Moda'i, predicting an inflation rate of less than 10 per cent for December, said the high November figures resulted from the high level of monetary injection in previous months. Another major factor was the price increases approved by the (Continued on Page 2, Col. 6)

U.S. unlikely to meet aid request

By WOLF BLITZER
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON. — White House Chief of Staff James Baker has sought to dispel notions of any major economic and military aid increases for Israel in next year's budget.

At a news conference Friday sponsored by the government's Foreign Press Centre, Baker said there may be some consideration being given in the State Department to an increase in aid to Israel, but he pointedly added: "I don't think it is in the White House."

Baker said President Reagan was searching for ways to reduce the "severe" deficit in the coming proposed budget, which is scheduled to be submitted to Congress in January.

The chief of staff referred to pending proposals to freeze spending across the board, including foreign aid.

U.S. and Israeli officials later said Baker's comments underscored the prevailing attitude in the White House to include "at best" only a modest aid increase for Israel — certainly nothing as significant as Israel is seeking.

There is said to be more inclination to raise aid to Israel at the State Department than the White House.

Later, while walking out of the press centre, Baker was again asked about aid increases for Israel. He repeated that he was unaware of any such plans, although he refused to rule them out.

The first formal session of the recently created U.S.-Israeli Joint Economic Commission is scheduled to convene in Washington Wednesday and Thursday.

Israeli officials yesterday said they were anticipating hearing from the administration at that time on the approximate aid levels for Israel

which Reagan will propose in his budget.

The Director-General of the Israel Finance Ministry, Emmanuel Shuron, and the U.S. undersecretary of state for economic affairs, Allen Wallis, head the delegations.

Sharon is scheduled to leave for the U.S. tomorrow at the head of a delegation including the Treasury's deputy director-general Aaron Dovrat, Mordechai Frankel of the Bank of Israel research department and the Industry and Trade Ministry Director-General Yehoshua Forer.

According to reports from Washington, the delegation will seek \$750 million in emergency economic aid for 1985, in addition to the more than \$2.6 billion in economic and military aid already approved for the year. Israel is also seeking more than \$4 billion in assistance for the 1986 fiscal year. (Continued on Page 2, Col. 4)

South Lebanese protest Israeli security dragnet

By MENAHEM HOROWITZ
Jerusalem Post Reporter

METULLA. — South Lebanon's Moslems and Christians joined forces yesterday in a general strike to protest against an Israeli security operation in which a number of people were killed, injured or detained, Lebanese security sources said.

Lebanon's ambassador to the UN protested to the UN secretary-general against the operation, saying four people had died and tens had been wounded in raids Thursday on nine South Lebanese villages.

Shops, schools and businesses were shut yesterday with the strike reported to be total in Shi'ite villages, in response to a call by Nabih Berri, leader of the Shi'ite Amal militia, and Lebanese minister of state for the south.

IDF and South Lebanese Army units were stationed outside the striking villages, but deliberately did not enter in order to avoid provoking more serious disturbances. In the Shi'ite villages of Marake, Yanuah and Dir Zafra, villages set up stone barricades in the streets and burned tires.

Meanwhile, the IDF moved to defuse tension with the local Shi'ite population. Tat-Aluf Shlomo Ilyia, OC Lebanon liaison unit, told Shi'ite notables the IDF would permit the

movement of people and goods by sea between Tyre and Beirut.

A number of local Shi'ite leaders have recently applied to the IDF to make the movement of people and goods north of the Awali easier, and the IDF wants to show that Shi'ites who cooperate with the authorities will be rewarded by easing of restrictions.

In Jezzine, the main Christian town in the south, a requiem mass was held for some of those killed. "He who seeks Israel's help is asking the wolf to protect the sheep," Beirut Radio quoted Father Mubarak Aoun as saying.

The service was seen as an unprecedented sign of Christian-Muslim solidarity; Israel has hitherto regarded southern Christians as allies.

Sources in the south said three people were killed, 21 wounded and 135 seized when some 800 Israeli troops and security men entered the villages.

Israel says it killed two people, wounded seven and detained 30 suspected terrorists.

On Friday, there were three attacks on IDF and SLA patrols and positions with one resulting civilian casualty. A Border Police patrol south of the Zuharani River came under light arms fire, and the fire was returned. A local villager was wounded and taken to hospital. Also an SLA roadblock near Jezzine came under light arms fire, but there were no casualties, and an RPG was fired at an SLA position in Tyre, but there were no casualties.

PLO man shot dead in Rome

ROME. — An Arab shot dead in Rome on Friday night was identified yesterday as Palestine Liberation Organization member Ismail Darwish, the police said.

A PLO spokesman confirmed the identity of the man, who was killed with three pistol shots in the chest and head near Rome's fashionable Via Veneto.

A spokesman for the Rome office of the PLO said Darwish had arrived from Tunis, but said he did not know the purpose of his trip.

The office, in a statement released shortly after Darwish's identification was confirmed, said: "This is not the first time that Israeli secret agents commit their crimes in this city."

Darwish died shortly after an un-

identified gunman shot him with a silenced-equipped pistol on Friday evening.

Initial police reports had identified the man as Moroccan businessman Mohammad Abdel-Rahman Kamal. Police said yesterday the man's passport was false.

Witnesses told police they saw two people speeding away on a motorcycle straight after the shooting, which occurred outside Hotel Victoria.

A note written on an Arabic newspaper that Darwish was carrying indicated he had an appointment at the hotel. Police said he himself was staying at another hotel.

No attempt was made to rob him of \$2,000 and a gold watch and chain he was carrying. (Reuter, AP)

Kremlin No. 2 in Britain

Gorbachev: Soviets ready to curb any type of arms

LONDON (AP). — Mikhail Gorbachev, widely believed to be second man in the Soviet hierarchy, arrived in London yesterday declaring readiness to "eventually ban" all types of armaments and never to "start any new round in the arms race."

Gorbachev, here for a week, will have luncheon talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher today. He said he hoped his visit would contribute "to the betterment of the international situation."

British officials have said they hope to glean during Gorbachev's trip some idea of the Soviet position in advance of the January 7-8 Geneva talks between U.S. Secretary of

State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko. The talks may set up a new phase in nuclear arms talks following the Soviet walkout from missile talks late last year.

Gorbachev, urbane and smiling, spoke briefly to about 100 newsmen at Heathrow Airport, closely guarded by police.

His remarks, made in Russian, and a separate press statement in English, appeared to set an upbeat tone for the visit of the eight-man Soviet parliamentary delegation, plus about 20 aides.

The statement said: "Our country (Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

2 die as Iraqi jets hit tanker

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP). — Iraqi jet fighters raided a Greek-owned supertanker in the Gulf waters south of Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal yesterday, setting the engine room ablaze and killing two crewmen, marine salvage executives reported.

Fire was still raging in the bridge and engine room of the 240,330-ton Ninemia at sundown, five hours after the vessel was crippled by a missile just outside the periphery of the 80-km. radius Iraq-Iran war

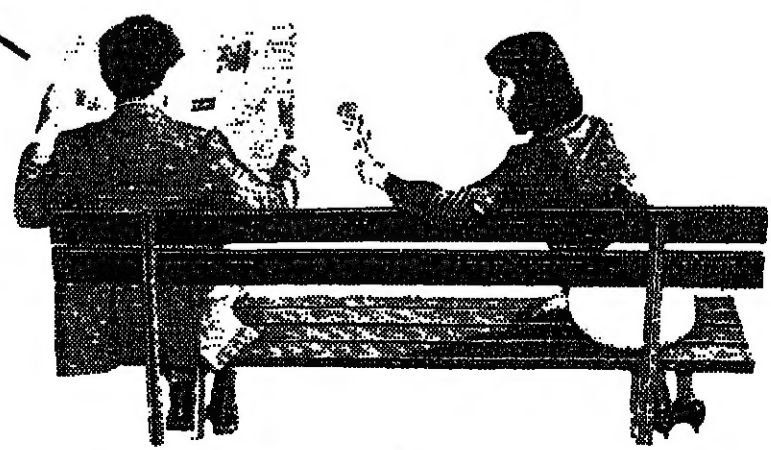
tanker managers, the Piraeus-based Buenamar Shipping Co., told AP in a telephone interview.

He said that the remaining crewmen, 21 Greeks and four Pakistanis, were airlifted by Iranian air force helicopters and taken to the seaport of Bushire.

In Baghdad, a military spokesman said that Iraqi air force jet fighters attacked "two naval targets" south of Kharg. But marine shipping and salvage sources along the Gulf said

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COPENHAGEN	1	4	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	9	12	Cloudy
GENEVA	2	6	Cloudy
HELSINKI	2	6	Cloudy
HONG KONG	20	28	Cloudy
JORDAN	18	24	Clear
LONDON	7	10	Cloudy
LONDON	6	11	Cloudy
MADRID	1	4	Cloudy
MONTREAL	-4	1	Cloudy
NEW YORK	3	6	Cloudy
OSLO	2	6	Cloudy
PARIS	7	11	Cloudy
RIO DE JANEIRO	23	32	Cloudy
SAO PAULO	19	28	Cloudy
STOCKHOLM	1	4	Cloudy
TOKYO	8	11	Cloudy
TORONTO	-2	1	Cloudy
VIENNA	3	6	Cloudy
ZURICH	8	12	Cloudy

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THE WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy.

Jerusalem	Yesterday's Humidity	Yesterday's Min-Max	Today's Min-Max
Jerusalem	53	12-17	12
Colan	53	11-17	9
Nahariya	53	11-17	8
Safed	64	5-8	8
Haifa Port	61	12-16	17
Tiberias	49	8-18	18
Nazareth	52	8-13	14
Afula	52	7-16	16
Shomron	56	4-14	14
Tel Aviv	60	10-19	19
B-C Airport	57	9-18	18
Jericho	55	7-19	19
Gaza	58	10-18	18
Beer Sheva	49	6-17	17
Eilat	28	3-21	21

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

The Belgian state secretary for co-operation and development, Francois Xavier de Donnea, accompanied by the head of cabinet, Jacques Brassinne, on Friday morning visited the International Agricultural Cooperation Centre at the Agriculture Ministry's Volcani Institute. They were greeted by Prof. Gad Loebeinstein, director, and Dr. K. Schallinger, and met with participants in the international course on irrigation.

Rabbi Wolfe Kelman will lecture on "American Jews after the Elections" at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Kreitzman Building, Auditorium 04, at 6 p.m. on December 17, 1984. The lecture is being presented under the auspices of the Norbert Blechman Chair in Jewish Values and the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel.

Five killed in road accidents

Five people were killed and 70 were critically injured in 56 serious road accidents during the week ending last Thursday. There were 63 minor accidents during the period.

Among those killed were: three pedestrians and one minor. There were 47 pedestrians, including 18 minors, among the injured.

On Friday afternoon, three pupils at the Alliance school in Haifa were injured when a car swerved into a parked car near where they were walking. The driver of the car and a passenger were seriously injured.

The police said that the driver did not have a licence.

In a three-car accident in Netanya yesterday, six people were hurt, two of them seriously. (Itim)

Families of slain girls to sit-in at PM's Office

BAT YAM (Itim). - The families of two girls who have been murdered are to demonstrate outside the Prime Minister's Office this morning.

The families of Nava Elimelech and Maya Zinger, who have demonstrated there twice in the past, are to take part in the sit-in demonstration. Elimelech was murdered in March 1982 and Zinger was slain in Jerusalem in November 1983. Their murders remain unsolved.

The families want to meet with the prime minister and ask him to set up a committee to investigate "the observance of children's rights and their protection against deviants and murderers."

A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY HAS BEFALLEN THE JEWISH PEOPLE

A great destruction and holocaust

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among them parchments from the Maharam Rottenburg and the Great Synagogue of Warsaw and scrolls which Jews risked their lives to save from destruction in the Holocaust.

WE CALL UPON THE NATION TO MOURN THIS TERRIBLE CALAMITY

The eulogy and burial will take place at the site of the fire, the synagogue of the Chamber of the Holocaust, today, Sunday, 22 Kislev, December 16, at 2:30 p.m. at the Diaspora Yeshiva near King David's Tomb on Mt. Zion.

HOME NEWS

Ya'acobi: November index is 'not worrisome'

By LEA LEVAVI
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Economics Minister Gad Ya'acobi has said it is too early to tell whether the package deal is successful, and that he does not regard November's 19.5 per cent inflation rate "as either a positive sign or a worrisome one."

In an interview on Kol Yisrael Friday evening, Ya'acobi also said economic controls of some sort will remain in effect at least until next summer.

The minister pointed out that the November increase in the cost of living index included the effects of price rises before the package deal, including large price increases early in November. The real test, he said, will be whether the second package deal will bring inflation down to a "tolerable" level of 3 or 4 per cent a month.

The second stage of the accord will not be the same as the first, he said, because it must solve the problem of subsidies, which are now bringing a stream of money into the economy and potentially fueling inflation. The second stage must also take into account devaluation since the deal began, he said.

Informal discussions are being held within the government, he said,

and he hopes informal talks with the other partners to the package deal (the Histadrut and the employers) will begin in a few days, to be followed by formal talks. The second package deal should be finalized by the beginning of January, he said.

"At least until the summer, our economy will be controlled in some way and will not be totally free. We are trying to solve four problems at once, which is a first in Israeli economic policy. We are trying to bring down inflation while at the same time improving our foreign currency situation... gradually bringing about economic growth and stabilizing the economy."

Dollarization, he said, is not the medicine the economy needs. Making the dollar legal tender here would destroy Israeli sovereignty and is entirely unacceptable, Ya'acobi declared.

Asked about U.S. dissatisfaction with the pace of Israel's economic programme, he said the Americans are less sensitive to social implications and see the situation more theoretically. He also advised them to do something about their own \$210 billion budget deficit, saying he has as much right to give them that friendly advice as they have to advise us - despite their financial aid to us.

Navon: No advance in Jordan relations

By LEA LEVAVI
Jerusalem Post Reporter

There has been no real development in Jordan's relations with Israel, other than a possible slight change in the climate, Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Yitzhak Navon told Kol Yisrael yesterday.

"It is true that when King Hussein talked about peace in his address before the Palestinian National Council, it seemed like a development in view of the forum where he said it, but it does not represent a significant change," Navon said.

Navon said there is nothing in the coalition agreement which would tie the government's hands if there were an opening for progress toward peace with Jordan. Only if the negotiations developed to a point where the majority in the cabinet would

reject the proposed solutions would a problem arise, he said.

"Of course, there are differences of opinion within the government and Hussein is not ready to accept the Alignment's peace plan anyway," he noted.

Navon said he believes the teachers unions are willing to contribute their share to the ministry's budget cuts, and he hopes the details can be worked out in negotiations between the ministry and the unions. He said he had no regrets about not competing with Prime Minister Shimon Peres for the top spot on the Alignment slate.

"All the cabinet ministers will tell you Peres is functioning very well as prime minister," he said.

He would not talk about his future political aspirations, saying his current job is a great challenge and that he is totally involved in it.

Choice of Pickering not finalized

Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON. - U.S. officials yesterday said the selection of U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador Thomas Pickering to become the next envoy to Israel was by no means final.

Last week it was reported that Secretary of State George Shultz had concluded that Pickering, a career diplomat and former ambassador to Jordan in the mid-1970s, should replace retiring Ambassador Samuel Lewis in Tel Aviv.

But yesterday U.S. officials said the White House had not yet "signed off" on the Shultz recommendation.

They insisted that the current U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, Reginald Bartholomew, was still in the running for the Israeli post. They knew of no other serious candidates for the sensitive position.

The White House, they added, was not inclined to go outside the career foreign service for an ambassador to Israel.

One consideration in favour of Bartholomew, U.S. officials said, was that he would have fewer problems winning Senate Foreign Relations Committee confirmation. Republican Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina, a committee member, is known to oppose Pickering because of the envoy's actions in Central America in recent years.

Israeli officials said the State Department has not yet sought any official Israeli "agreement" for a new ambassador - as required under diplomatic protocol.

"It still might be Pickering," one U.S. official said, "but it's not yet certain."

GOBRACHEV

(Continued from Page One)

has never sought, nor is it seeking military superiority. It has never been, nor will it ever be the one to start any new round in the arms race. There are no types of armaments that the USSR would not agree to see limited and eventually banned in agreement with other states on a reciprocal basis."

Anti-Soviet demonstrators shouted slogans and held banners as Gorbachev arrived at the Soviet Embassy and during his tour in London yesterday evening.

Two men were hustled away after shouting "Peace in the Ukraine" in German inside the British Museum, where Gorbachev and his delegation were shown the reading room where Marx and Lenin studied.

Outside the museum about 40 protesters gathered to show support for

the banned Polish trade union Solidarity, for Soviet Jews and for freedom in the Ukraine.

On the eve of Gorbachev's arrival, Shultz and other North Atlantic Treaty Organization Foreign Ministers meeting in Brussels on Friday said that "nuclear weapons should be substantially reduced" in U.S.-Soviet arms negotiations. (See story page 4)

Shultz met with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl for three hours yesterday to discuss upcoming U.S.-Soviet talks and other issues. The secretary of state departed for Washington following the visit to Kohl's home near Ludwigsfelde, about 100 km. south of Frankfurt.

Kohl said afterward that Shultz offered assurances that Washington would regularly consult with its allies on progress toward a U.S.-Soviet arms agreement.

Death of sacked Soviet minister-suicide?

MOSCOW (Reuter). - Sacked Soviet Interior Minister Nikolai Shchekolov, thought to be about to face trial on corruption charges, was buried yesterday in a hasty ceremony which fuelled speculation he had committed suicide.

The death of the former minister, 73, an associate of late president Leonid Brezhnev, has not been officially announced by the Soviet media.

Witnesses at the graveside in Moscow's Vagankovskoye Cemetery said a closed coffin was buried in a quick ceremony sparsely attended but with a substantial presence of police.

A simple metal plaque on the grave gave the dead man's name and put the date of death as December 13.

According to Russian tradition, coffins are usually carried open to the graveside. Shchekolov's was closed, lending weight to rumours he had taken his own life, possibly by shooting himself in the head.

Shchekolov was officially stripped of his rank of general last month. He was sacked by Brezhnev's successor Yuri Andropov a month after Brezhnev's death in November 1982.

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Everyone is in training for tomorrow's annual Sea of Galilee (Lake Kinneret) Marathon. Some 600 starters, 170 from abroad, are due to set out in the race, which starts and ends at the Tiberias Plaza. Story page 7.

Teachers join framework agreement

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. - The teachers are included in the framework agreement after negotiations between the two teachers unions and the government were successfully completed on Friday afternoon.

The teachers will begin receiving the 8 per cent sectoral increment in their December pay. Beginning in January, they will receive the increment retroactive to September in four monthly installments.

The teachers opened school late

10 days ago and were due to follow up with a strike in protest against not being included in the agreement. But the Jerusalem Labour Court prevented the strike.

The teachers, who have other demands connected with the implementation of the Etzioni Commission recommendations, initially did not want to join the agreement in case it prejudiced their claims. Later, because of the economic freeze, they demanded at least the same terms as other public sector employees.

U.S. UNLIKELY

(Continued from Page One)

Another item likely to appear on the agenda is implementation of Israel's economic recovery plan. Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i has hinted several times recently that without the proposed budget cuts, the delegation will find it difficult to explain Israel's position to the Americans.

A possible semi-dollarization of the economy is also likely to be discussed. At least one of its members, Fraenkel, has been involved with the planning of such reform and his presence in the delegation could indicate this issue will be raised.

Israeli officials in Washington acknowledged yesterday that the administration was unlikely to come close to meeting the nearly \$5 billion request.

Earlier last week, authoritative U.S. and Israeli sources suggested that the final administration proposal would be for around \$3.1b.

But Baker's remarks on Friday appeared to indicate that even that sum was by no means certain.

Meanwhile, U.S. and Israeli officials yesterday said the two countries had been involved in technical discussions on any necessary U.S. measures which would accompany major currency reforms in Israel, including modified dollarization schemes.

Secretary of State George Shultz, they said, was still keen on such drastic measures by Israel as part of a combined strategy aimed at curbing inflation.

So far, U.S. officials have not been impressed by the austerity steps taken by the national unity government. Shultz underlined this to Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir during their meeting in New York. Other administration officials have privately repeated this contention.

Meanwhile, a delegation of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee arrived in Israel to examine Israel's economic aid needs.

Senator Daniel Inouye (Democratic-Hawaii) arrived Friday, and Senator Robert Kasten (Republican-Wisconsin) was expected to join him last night.

The two are to discuss Israel's aid requests with Prime Minister Peres, Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i and Economics Minister Gad Ya'acobi.

The two senators are scheduled to be here until Wednesday.

STRIKE

(Continued from Page One)

ember 21 to discuss the dissolution of the municipal coalition, after Lahat ignored his deputy, Dov Ben-Meir (Labour) and did not show him the financial arrangement.

The Post has learned that at first the interior ministry demanded the appointment of a ministry "commissioner" in Tel Aviv, to supervise every financial transaction. This was vetoed by Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i.

Other demands include a 10 per cent increase in municipal rates, cancellation of separate directorships of the city's companies, and the turning of them into municipal departments supervised by city committees.

Both Moda'i and Interior Ministry Director-General Haim Kubersky expressed surprise that the banks agreed to lend the city the money without any government guarantee. If the city does not agree to the demands, or the negotiations break up, the banks will probably not get their money back, sources said.

PERES/SHAS

(Continued from Page One)

Ministry, which is to be given the NRP. Shas' objections to this led to the crisis.

Shamir reiterated his promise to appoint a Shas deputy minister and said he would do that regardless of the pending appointments promised other parties, which the Likud has not yet fulfilled.

The Herut secretariat last week issued a statement calling on the Likud to withdraw from the coalition if Shas resigns.

MK Yair Tzaban intends to appeal to the High Court of Justice concerning Yosef's involvement in political affairs, despite being a rabbinical court judge.

Attorney-General Yitzhak Zamir last month wrote a letter to the Religious Affairs minister saying that Yosef's political activity is in violation of the law forbidding judges and rabbinical judges from active involvement in politics.

Senior Druse army officer assassinated in West Beirut

BEIRUT (AP). - Gunmen assassinated a senior Druse Lebanese Army officer in Beirut Friday and heavy artillery battles broke out anew on the northern edge of Israel's occupation zone in South Lebanon, the police reported.

Long-range guns and multiple rocket launchers were used in the three-hour battle between Druse and Christian militiamen in the Kharrout region.

This was the first serious violation of a cease-fire that halted three days of fierce fighting in the province last Wednesday. The police said 10 civilians were killed and 40 wounded in that round, but no casualty reports were issued on the fresh hostilities that tapered off at midnight.

Lt. Col. Adel Abu Rabia, was shot and killed by two masked assailants who jumped from a black Honda and raked his jeep with sub-machine guns in mostly Moslem West Beirut's Hamra district at 8.15

a.m., the police said. He suffered at least 35 gunshot wounds.

Police said the officer and his aide-de-camp, Pvt. Ghazi Gomas, died instantly, and driver, Pvt. Salim Haidar, a Shi'ite Moslem, was in "grave condition" after surgery to remove a bullet from his brain.

The attack panicked motorists and pedestrians during the rush hour in the crowded business district. Several taxi drivers were seen fleeing the area by driving on sidewalks, with horns blaring, as pedestrians sprinted out of the way or dived for cover.

Abu Rabia commanded the 6th Brigade's battalion along the central sector of the "green line" that splits the Lebanese capital into Moslem and Christian sectors.

The 6th Brigade is a predominantly Shi'ite force assigned to provide security duties under a plan that required Shi'ite and Druse militiamen to abandon control of the Lebanese capital's Moslem half.

Murphy against int'l M.E. parley

CAIRO (AP). - U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy yesterday rejected calls for an international peace conference on the Middle East despite recent endorsement of the plan by Egypt and Jordan.

Following 90 minutes of talks with President Hosni Mubarak, Murphy told reporters the U.S. does not view the proposal for an international conference as a constructive method to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"Our position has been stated many times," said Murphy, who arrived here Friday from London. "We do not think that it is a useful setting for advancing constructive exchanges for a peace settlement, which is our goal."

Murphy's visit to Cairo has come amid Egyptian criticism of both the U.S. and Israel over the Arab-Israeli issue, as well as emerging differences between Cairo and Washington on the best means of reviving the peace process.

UN passes 11 anti-Israel resolutions

UNITED NATIONS (AP). - The General Assembly passed three resolutions Friday calling for Israel to withdraw from Arab territories, and eight more condemning Israel for violating the human rights of residents of the territories.

One resolution accused Israel of "war crimes and an affront to humanity."

Another condemned Israel's "aggression, policies and practices against Arab Palestinians in these

territories," and called on all states to "cease military, economic and financial aid to Israel."

An attempt by the U.S. to delete a reference to its strategic cooperation agreement with Israel failed after prolonged procedural wrangling.

Meanwhile, the Arab League's ambassador at the UN said 1985 will be a critical year for Middle East peace efforts because of the lack of electioneering in the U.S. and prospects for superpower detente.

INFLATION

(Continued from Page One)

government on the eve of the price freeze.

The minister stressed the need to cut the government budget, and to slash the subsidies on basic commodities, fuel and electricity.

One factor which the ministry will take into consideration in its calculations regarding price increases, is the announcement of price statistics for the first two weeks of December, which the CBS is due to publish next week.

It will be the first time the bureau has published a mid-month estimate of retail price increases. The estimate will be based on 70 per cent of the goods and services consumed by the public.

CBS officials said on Friday that the price freeze is operating correctly for most products.

The Wholesale Price Index, which shows producers' prices, rose in November by 22.5 per cent, considerably more than the CPI.

Other price indices rose by a rate similar to the CPI. The price index of inputs in residential building rose by 19.5 per cent and that of agricultural inputs by 19.8 per cent.

Seasonal factors also had an influence on the CPI last month. Thus the prices of clothing and footwear went up by 38.7 per cent and the prices of fruits and vegetables by 24 per cent.

Other large hikes were registered

in the prices of furniture and home appliances - 21.1 per cent - and health services - 22.7 per cent. Nevertheless, dentists' prices went up only 5.4 per cent.

With the publication of the CPI, the Treasury announced the first brackets for next month:

Tax rate	Brackets
15	IS
20	up to 122,000
25	122,001-236,000
30	236,001-330,000
35	330,001-435,000
40	435,001-540,000
45	540,001-1,705,000
50	1,705,001-3,570,000
55	3,570,001-10,710,000
60	10,710,001-35,700,000
65	35,700,001-107,100,000
70	107,100,001-357,000,000
75	357,000,001-1,071,000,000
80	1,071,000,001-3,570,000,000
85	3,570,000,001-10,710,000,000
90	10,710,000,001-35,700,000,000
95	35,700,000,001-107,100,000,000
100	107,100,000,001-3,570,000,000,000

Egypt, Iraq and Jordan said planning summit

KUWAIT (AP). - The leaders of Egypt, Iraq and Jordan will hold a tripartite summit conference in the Iraqi capital next month to be followed by Baghdad's restoration

Reserves 'slightly less willing' to go on duty

Post Defence Reporter
TEL AVIV. — Deputy Chief of General Staff Aluf (Major-General) David Ivri says there has only been a slight reduction in the willingness of citizens to report for reserve duty because of the Lebanon situation.

In an interview published in the English language *IDF Journal*, Ivri said: "This is a natural and understandable phenomenon and is not necessarily related to the political/military situation regarding Lebanon *per se* but rather to work overload, the accumulation of extensive periods of reserve service over a given time. I admit it is difficult for people to carry such a burden for a long period of time," he added.

There has been a "slight increase" in the number of volunteers for elite ground, sea and air combat units, he said.

Ivri also said Israel has the know-how to produce "almost all" the combat material it needs, but budgetary constraints and delivery time requirements occasionally oblige it to compromise and buy abroad.

Ivri believed the Lavi and Phantom, which Israel is upgrading, as well as the F-15, F-16 and another plane—possibly the F-18—will be the IAF's main jets in the 1990s.

Israel is "devoting much effort" to building up the naval forces, he said. Ivri said the cuts in the defence allocation for 1984 "were in the region of 13 per cent." However, some items—such as indemnities to families and wounded veterans—could not be touched, so the outlay on other subjects has to be reduced by as much as 40 per cent, he said.

Budget cuts will force IDF to 'revert to preventive action'

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — Israel will have to revert to preventive action and to initiate wars as a result of cuts in defence spending, Aluf (major-general) Yossi Peled, head of the IDF's Training Command, told the Engineers Club here on Friday.

The cuts will considerably reduce the army's breathing space regarding the full mobilization of the reserves and therefore will force a fall-back to preventive action, he said.

He would not discuss "wars of choice," as the Lebanon War was termed by the government of the time.

Peled noted that over the past five years, funds for training reserves have been reduced by 60 per cent.

Refusenik to stand trial for 'parasitism'

Jerusalem Post Staff and agencies

A refusenik who was held for nearly five months in Leningrad mental hospitals has been released, but was directly transferred to a local jail to await trial on charges of "parasitism," dissident sources said in Moscow on Friday.

The sources said police in Leningrad told friends of Nadezhda Fradkova that she had been charged with refusing to find officially acceptable work. The maximum possible sentence is two years in prison or labour camp.

Industry Ministry now headed by finance boss

Jerusalem Post Reporter

With both the minister and director-general out of the country, the Industry and Trade Ministry is now headed by the chief of its finance department, Yoram Blivovskiy.

A ministry spokesman confirmed on Friday that Director-General Yehoshua Forer had left for a week's visit to the U.S. and Latin America. In Washington, Forer will participate in meetings of the joint U.S.-Israel Economic Committee, a body established as a result of Prime Minister Shimon Peres's recent talks with American leaders.

Minister Ariel Sharon is in New York attending the trial on his libel suit against *Time* magazine.

Justice Minister Moshe Nissim is acting Industry and Trade Minister.

Katsav appoints panel on day-care centre fees

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Labour and Social Affairs Minister Moshe Katsav last week appointed a committee to examine the criteria by which fees for day-care centres are calculated.

The committee is headed by MK Meir Shitrit. It includes representatives of the ministry's women's employment unit, day-care organizations, parents and budget officials of the ministry and Treasury.

The committee has been directed to report its findings and recommendations to the minister by January 15.

Villager found dead near Zichron Ya'acov

HAIFA. — The body of a 25-year-old man from Kfar Manda in Galilee was found at a fuel station near Zichron Ya'acov on Friday night.

The police spokesman said they had been alerted by an anonymous phone call. The body was identified as that of Omar Raja Ouda. The police are investigating.



Students at the Diaspora Yeshiva examine the burned Tora scrolls.

(Rahamim Israeli)

Body found near Israel Museum

Jerusalem Post Reporter

A badly-decomposed body found in a wadi near the Israel Museum on Friday morning is to be examined at the Abu Kabir forensic laboratory today, a Jerusalem police spokesman said last night.

Spokesman Rafi Levy said that until the reports of the examination are available, police will not know whether the body is linked to some documents found nearby.

Those documents belonged to a woman whose name the spokesman refused to divulge.

The spokesman was unable to say last night whether the deceased—whose sex has yet to be determined—was the victim of foul play.

Youth shot on TA street

TEL AVIV (Itim). — Police are investigating the shooting of a youth on a Tel Aviv street Friday afternoon.

Amram Cohen, 18, was wounded in the arm.

Cohen told the police he got off a bus on La Guardia Street at 4 p.m. Friday and was walking to his home on Derech Hahaganah when he heard a shot and his arm began hurting. A friend walking with him rushed him to Ichilov Hospital.

Cohen said he had no idea where the shot came from.

Wage dispute solved at Kiryat Bialik hostel

Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — A dispute over the wages of the 50 employees of the Ahava children's hostel in Kiryat Bialik was solved over the weekend after they sent the 120 children home.

The staff did not receive their wages at the beginning of the month, and on Friday decided to send home the children, who are mostly from troubled or broken family backgrounds. The Social Affairs Ministry then said it was sending IS12 million to cover the payroll, and the hostel is to be reopened today.

Ahava was opened nearly 50 years ago to accommodate refugee children from Germany.

Haifa telephones still out of order

Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — Thousands of telephones which were knocked out of order by Thursday's heavy rains were not repaired over the weekend.

Bezek did not give users a definite repair date, stating that it would take several days to repair the phones. Worst hit was the upper Ahuzadanya quarter, all the way to the university, where all telephones were knocked out.

Phones in some Bayside suburbs are also out of order.

Fire damages Tora scrolls

By HAIM SHAPIRO and ROBERT ROSENBERG
Jerusalem Post Reporters

Students of Jerusalem's Diaspora Yeshiva on Mt. Zion today will bury 15 Tora scrolls damaged in one of two fires which broke out in synagogues early Friday morning.

The second fire, at the Ramban Synagogue in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City, slightly damaged the Ark of the Law before it was extinguished.

The blaze at the yeshiva for *ba'alei teshuva* (newly orthodox Jews) on Mt. Zion almost destroyed the Ark and other furnishings and caused part of the roof to collapse.

Police investigators last night said

the fire in the Ramban Synagogue appeared to have started in four places. They said that was a sign of arson.

At the Diaspora Yeshiva, the fire appeared to have been caused by candles left burning on a windowsill, the police said.

The fire department is due to complete the investigation today or tomorrow.

Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek, who is expected to attend today's burial ceremony for the Tora scrolls, strongly condemned any possible arson.

The ceremony is to be held at 2.30 p.m. at the Diaspora Yeshiva synagogue.



From left to right: Professors Robert Burris, Kunihiko Kodaira and Hans Lewy.

Wolf Prizes in agriculture, math

Professor Robert Burris of the University of Wisconsin has been named the winner of the \$100,000 Wolf Foundation Prize in Agriculture for 1984/85.

Professors Kunihiko Kodaira of the Japan Academy, Tokyo, and Hans Lewy of the University of California, Berkeley, have been named joint winners of the \$100,000 Wolf prize in mathematics.

The awards were announced last week by the Education Ministry.

The awards will be presented by President Chaim Herzog in May at the Knesset.

The international Wolf Prizes, worth \$100,000 each, are also awarded for achievements in physics, medicine, chemistry and the arts.

Nurses held for selling clinic's drugs

HAIFA (Itim). — Two male nurses in charge of supplying drugs to addicts at a Haifa treatment centre have been arrested on suspicion of stealing drugs from the centre's storeroom and selling them.

The suspects, Suhil Kadari, 32, and Sami Nasser, 45, on Friday were remanded for 12 days by Magistrate's Court Judge Salim Jubran.

The police representative told the judge that the two had been arrested

after the police received extensive information on drug deals at the treatment station.

Nasser is also suspected of having sexual relations with women addicts in return for drugs.

The police said they also have *prima facie* evidence linking the two to irregularities and forgeries in clinic documents.

The suspects denied the charges.

Man fined IS5,000 for carving swastika on statue

HAIFA (Itim). — A 19-year-old man found guilty of burglary and of carving a swastika on a statue was given a three-month suspended sentence and fined IS5,000 on Friday.

Rizak Aziz Bishara, 19, admitted to magistrates' court to breaking into the Marine Research Laboratory and stealing an adding machine, transistor radio and other equipment. He also admitted to carving a swastika

on a statue outside the Haifa Museum, defacing it beyond repair.

In another incident, a 13-year-old boy was detained on Friday, suspected of painting swastikas and Magen Davids on the wall of a leatherwork factory in Acre. The boy said he did not know the significance of the swastika, thinking it just a symbol. He will be brought before a youth court.

Peres pledges IS1 billion to Arab municipalities

TEL AVIV (Itim). — Prime Minister Shimon Peres said on Friday that the practice of blowing up houses built without a permit will be stopped. He also pledged IS1 billion for Arab local councils to bring the standard of Arab villages up to that of their Jewish neighbours.

Peres was speaking to Labour Party activists from the Arab and Druse sector. Conceding that Arab local councils had up to now received only 30 per cent of the aid given to Jewish settlements, Peres said that this inequality will be abolished.

The prime minister said that the government is preparing master plans for all the Arab villages, so that legal building can be carried out, and that all the villages will be linked to the electric grid and have paved roads.

Peres said special efforts will be made to solve the housing problems of Druse ex-servicemen and to improve conditions among the Beduin. As soon as the current economic freeze is over, a big push for industrialization in the Arab sector will be initiated, he said.

The prime minister noted that he had recommended municipal status for Umm al-Fahm, which has a population of 20,000. He said he is looking for methods to give Arab representatives more of a say in matters affecting them. He added that there has not been a decision

about abolishing the post of the prime minister's adviser for Arab affairs.

Opening the discussion, Ra'anan Cohen, the head of the Labour Party's minorities division, expressed concern at the growth of extremism among some circles in both the Jewish and the Arab communities. He noted that Arabs are liable to be the first to suffer from unemployment.

MK Abdul Wahab Darousha told the meeting that a Labour Party parliamentary bureau for Arabs and Druse has been opened in Nazareth. He also praised Minister without Portfolio Ezer Weizman for his efforts on behalf of Israeli Arabs.

Wants Arab Peace Now

TEL AVIV (Itim). — A call for an Arab Peace Now movement was voiced yesterday by MK Abdul Wahab Darousha at a meeting of Labour Party Arab activists.

Darousha expressed confidence that his suggestion would be well received among Israeli Arabs and would be a good answer to a question often asked — "Why is there no equivalent of Peace Now among the Arabs?"

Darousha said the Arab Peace Now would work together with the Jewish movement and that Israeli Arabs really could be a bridge to peace with the Arab world.

Gas distributor lauded for preventing sabotage

REHOVOT (Itim). — Pinhas Damari, the cooking gas distributor

who alerted the police when he found a booby-trapped hand grenade among the gas cylinders on his truck, received a commendation on Friday from Rehovot Mayor Yehzekel Hamelech and the police.

Damari had noticed the grenade while making deliveries. He drove the truck to an open area where police sappers safely defused the

grenade.

But Assistant Commander Shimon Savir of the Coastal Plain District Police said Damari should have spotted the hand grenade before leaving the loading terminal. He said gas cylinder distributors who violate instructions to check their trucks before setting out would be severely punished. However no action would be taken against Damari, he said, because of his action.

Opposition at Rambam to firing 47 employees

HAIFA. — The Haifa Labour Council is opposed to a Health Ministry order that Rambam Hospital dismiss 3 per cent of its staff by December 25.

The directive calls for firing 47 medical and administrative employees.

The hospital's works committee

argues that Rambam is already working 20 per cent below the official level and that the order contravenes Health Minister Mordechai Gurf's statement that the hospital staff would be kept at its August 1984 level.

On Tuesday the employees plan to hold a meeting to consider possible action against the order.

Air Force apologizes for Safad sonic boom

SAFAD (Itim). — The deputy commander of the Air Force and the pilots who caused the sonic boom here last Sunday visited the town on Friday and apologized to the schools and residents for the resultant damage.

The officer explained that the sonic boom was accidental and that it had occurred during training. "We will try to train better," he promised.

Hundreds of windows were shattered by the sonic boom.

European Parliament group to meet Knesset

Jerusalem Post Staff

The 10th annual Knesset-European Parliament meeting is to begin today at the Knesset, with the Middle East situation, Israel-Common Market relations and energy issues on the agenda, the Knesset spokeswoman announced.

The Knesset and the European Parliament have been holding annual meetings in Europe and Israel, alternately, since 1975. The last meeting was held in Strasbourg last December.

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NEWS BACKGROUND/Wladimir Struminski

Greens man denies being 'an anti-Zionist'

BONN. — Ulrich Tilgner, the man who drafted the Green Party's Middle East strategy document, says he has "nothing against a Zionist peace movement."

"When I point out that the Israeli peace movement is overwhelmingly Zionist, it does not mean that I am anti-Zionist," he told *The Jerusalem Post* in a weekend interview in his Bundestag office. Tilgner's document caused an uproar when it was leaked to the press last week, and brought charges from Israeli Ambassador Yitzhak Ben Ari that the Greens follow a "Jews out" policy.

The Greens' Bundestag faction dissociated itself from Tilgner's paper, which it said was just one of a number of preliminary papers. It has been turned down by the party's Middle East delegation, which is to begin a two-week visit to the region today.

The Greens denied published reports that the delegation would not

like to meet representatives of the Israeli government.

The Middle East document bears no official Green Party stamp, and has been signed by Tilgner only. Still, Tilgner is adviser to the Greens

No automatic entry for Green delegates

By WLADIMIR STRUMINSKI
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

BONN. — Although Israel does not require that visas be obtained by German citizens young enough not to have possibly been active in the Nazi regime, this does not mean that their entry to Israel is automatic.

This seems to be Israel's position regarding a delegation of the leftist Green Party of West Germany, which is to visit the Middle East.

The *Jerusalem Post* has learned that a delegation member, Mohammed Azzama is apparently a former Israeli citizen and has been advised

on foreign affairs.

He wrote in his proposed schedule: "As long as the Israeli government does not recognize the PLO, we too have to minimize our contacts with official representatives of the

State of Israel as far as possible."

He gave an additional reason for his recommendation: "The Greens are in a dilemma between officialdom and basic popular politics. The Greens delegation, he suggested, would prefer to talk to the people rather than to politicians. This is, however, not possible in countries like Syria, which can and obviously do demand that the guests meet their official representatives, including the Syrian Foreign Minister."

"In Israel we do not need visas or things like that and thus are free to meet, or not to meet whoever we choose," he said.

Tilgner said the points of agreement between the Greens and Syria are limited to "UN-resolutions," including the demand for "an Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied since 1967. I shall recommend that the delegation demand from Syria and Jordan a recognition of Israel," he said.

Israeli sources in Bonn said the delegation ought to be received by Israeli officials despite the strong anti-Israeli attitudes it has expressed.



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Nato supports U.S. bid for arms control

BRUSSELS (AP). — The Nato allies pledged full support on Friday for the resumption of U.S.-Soviet arms control talks and said the meeting of the superpowers in January may mark "a new phase" in East-West efforts to agree on major reductions in nuclear weapons.

In a declaration at the end of two days of closed-door meetings, foreign ministers of the 16 North Atlantic Treaty Organization countries vowed a "realistic effort" to improve East-West relations.

They also urged the Soviet-led bloc to "adopt a similarly positive approach towards genuine détente," while accusing the Soviets of straining global relations with a "con-

stant" buildup of arms.

The communiqué's criticism of the Soviets was muted compared with many past declarations, and the meeting itself was one of the most harmonious in the 35-year history of the western alliance.

The regular year-end meeting of Nato foreign ministers was dominated by talk about U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's scheduled meeting January 7-8 with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko. Their meeting in Geneva is designed to lay the groundwork for a possible resumption of formal arms control negotiations.

Shultz said the allies had offered him a "wide variety of suggestions"

on how the U.S. should approach the new talks.

Shultz said the U.S. Administration was committed to full consultations with the allies on the pace and substance of future arms control negotiations with the Soviets.

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German foreign minister, told reporters the European allies viewed this U.S. pledge as "very encouraging."

Shultz said a Nato ministerial meeting may be convened in Brussels after the January meeting with Gromyko to inform the allies about the talks, and added that he or other senior U.S. officials might also hold

private consultations in European capitals.

The foreign ministers' communiqué included statements on a variety of topics aside from the prospects for a superpowers arms control pact. They also said:

● The production and stockpiling of chemical weapons should be banned worldwide.

● The 16 alliance members "remain determined to prevent and suppress" terrorism, which "seeks to undermine stability and destroy our democratic institutions."

● It is "unacceptable" that the Soviet Union "continues to violate the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity" of Afghanistan.

China will 'adhere firmly to Socialism'

PEKING (AP). — Premier Zhao Ziyang said Friday that China will continue to adhere firmly to socialism, despite commentary in the Chinese press suggesting that communism cannot cure all the country's ills.

"China is a socialist country and will continue in the future to adhere firmly to the socialist system," Zhao was quoted as telling visiting President Jafar Numairi of the Sudan.

Referring to the market-economy reforms taking place in the world's most populous country, Zhao said it would be difficult to build socialism without invigorating production.

"Socialism which is not based on the growth of the productive forces is meaningless," he said.

General Assembly calls for eradication of apartheid

UNITED NATIONS (AP). — The UN General Assembly last Thursday night adopted a resolution calling for "total eradication" of South Africa's policy of apartheid, or racial separation, after deletion of critical references to U.S. policy toward that country.

The vote was 123-15 with 15 abstentions.

It came after the U.S. delegation took advantage of a procedural maneuver by Iran and turned it against the Iranians and the other sponsors of the condemnatory resolution by requiring separate votes on each controversial paragraph of the resolution.

The original resolution would have condemned "the United States administration policy of constructive engagement with South Africa." It

would have also appealed to all other states to pressure Washington and "others concerned to desist from their present policies of collaboration with the apartheid regime and to cooperate in international action for the elimination of apartheid."

In its final form, critical references to the U.S. were deleted.

The policy of the administration of U.S. President Ronald Reagan stresses low-keyed diplomatic approaches to South Africa's white-minority government to effect reforms in its racial policies — rather than loud denunciation and punitive measures. Black African and other Reagan administration critics maintain the policy only encourages South Africa in policies to suppress the country's 22-million blacks.

Jihad Islami again threatens Italy

BEIRUT (AP). — An anonymous caller claiming to represent the shadowy Jihad Islami (Islamic Holy War) group has warned Italy to release eight men arrested in connection with an alleged plot to blow up the U.S. Embassy in Rome or face the consequences, a Beirut newspaper said yesterday.

The independent *An-Nahar* newspaper said the caller, who identified himself by the code name Abu Jihad, said that "the Jihad Islami organization warns the Italian government for the last time that it should release the eight detainees it is holding."

The caller added: "If this warning is not heeded, Italy can say 'good-bye' to its embassy in Beirut."

The Italian police arrested seven men last month after uncovering an apparent plot to blow up America's embassy in Rome. The arrests came after an eighth man, Hussein Atat Hani, had been arrested at a Zurich airport. The men, most of Lebanese origin, were said by the police to be Jihad Islami members.

Accused spy claims affair with Andropov

LOS ANGELES (AP). — A Soviet woman charged with espionage who has named two FBI agents as her lovers has a drinking problem and also once claimed to have had a romantic relationship with deceased Soviet leader Yuri Andropov, a prosecutor said in court on Friday.

Assistant U.S. attorney Bruce Merritt, at a hearing involving the case of Richard Miller, the first FBI agent charged with espionage, disclosed the contention by Svetlana Ogorodnikov and called it "a wild story."

Ogorodnikov's attorney, Brad Brian, told U.S. District Judge David Kenyon during the hearing that another claim by the Soviet woman, that she was an officer in the Soviet intelligence service, the KGB, was apparently a fabrication.

"There is some evidence my client has severe problems — psychiatric

and emotional problems," Brian said. He announced he would probably present "a general psychiatric defense" on her behalf when she goes on trial for espionage along with Miller and her estranged husband, Nikolay.

Miller, 47, is charged with selling secrets to the Soviets, demanding \$65,000 in cash and gold from Ogorodnikov and her husband. Miller worked in counterintelligence for the FBI in Los Angeles before he was arrested and fired on October 2.

The Ogorodnikovs and Miller are charged with espionage, bribery and unlawful delivery and receipt of classified documents.

"We have talked to witnesses who have used the word 'crazy' to describe my client," Brian said of Ogorodnikov. He demanded to know what evidence the government had developed on Ogorodnikov's

apparent fabrications, saying the alleged love affairs are relevant to his planned defense.

Merritt then arose and spoke: "In July 1983 she called Bryce Christensen (assistant FBI chief in Los Angeles) and said she had a romantic relationship with agent (John) Hunt. She also said she had a romantic relationship with the Soviet leader Andropov... on another occasion, she claimed she was Andropov's daughter."

Merritt said that as the government investigated Ogorodnikov's "wild stories," they found out about her drinking problem.

Brian suggested it was during one of her drinking bouts that Ogorodnikov suggested she was a major in the KGB, a comment which was quoted in the government's indictment of the three defendants.

Trial date set for suspects in murder of Polish priest

WARSAW (AP). — The trial of four Interior Ministry officials charged in the killing of Rev. Jerzy Popieluszko will begin December 27 in Torun, the official Polish news agency Pap said Friday.

Three defendants — a Secret Police captain and two Secret Police lieutenants — are charged with abducting and killing the pro-Solidarity priest on the night of October 19.

The fourth defendant, an Interior Ministry colonel is accused of aiding and abetting the others.

In Warsaw, Solidarity underground leader Zbigniew Janas, 31, surfaced Friday after three years in hiding, met his lawyer at a downtown bus stop and then took a bus home.

Janas, a former member of Solidarity's national commission, came out of hiding almost three years to the day after the independent trade union was crushed during the December 13, 1981 imposition of martial law.

"This is some kind of shock for me..." said Janas as he sat in his livingroom with his 7-year-old son in his arms. "If they do not put me in jail I will try to start living an ordinary life again."

Janas, a member of the Solidarity underground's four-man Warsaw regional executive committee, said he made the "difficult decision" to leave the underground for "family reasons." His wife is expecting a baby in March.



George Price

Belize PM fails in re-election bid

BELIZE CITY, Belize (AP). — Prime Minister George Price, who led Belize to independence from Britain three years ago and was the dominant political figure in this country for the past quarter century, lost his bid for re-election on Friday, a government spokesman said.

Price's centre-left Peoples United Party also was soundly defeated in voting for a 28-seat house of representatives, the government's Radio Belize reported yesterday.

The conservative United Democratic Party won 21 seats to seven for Price's party in the parliamentary election and will name a new prime minister.

Although it has lost municipal elections, this is the first time Price's party has been defeated in national elections since Britain first permitted them in the 1950s.

New supersonic jet makes first test

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, California (AP). — The supersonic X-29, an unusual jet with forward-swept wings and three computers aboard for stabilization, made its maiden flight last Friday, and the pilot's only complaint was that he spent too little time aloft.

"Very nice airplane. Only complaint is I don't have enough fuel to stay up longer," said Grumman aerospace chief test pilot Charles Sewell as he brought the plane in for a landing at this desert air base 97 kilometers north of Los Angeles.

Sewell, 54, told National Aeronautics and Space Administration ground controllers that the X-29 in the air handled better than the training simulator on the ground.

Koreas resume talks halted in 1973

SEOUL (AP). — South Korea announced yesterday that its representatives will meet with a North Korean Red Cross delegation in Seoul in January for the first time in 11 years to resume talks suspended in 1973.

This was one of two meetings South Korea announced as scheduled between the Koreas, next month.

One will be held on January 17 in the truce village of Panmunjom between economic officials of the two Koreas. It would be their second meeting, following one held on November 15, exclusively devoted to economic matters. The other will be a full-dress Red Cross meeting to be held on January 23-25.

Negligence blamed for Bhopal gas tragedy

BHOPAL. — Police yesterday blamed negligence and a lack of safety equipment for the gas disaster here as preparations were completed to neutralize the lethal chemical which killed 2,500 people.

With only hours remaining before the start today of "Operation Faith" to turn methyl isocyanate into pesticides, some residents still trekked to bus and rail stations to get far away from the Union Carbide factory responsible for the December 3 gas leak.

Official sources estimated 250,000 people, including thousands yesterday, have joined a panic exodus which started last Wednesday when it was announced the factory would reopen.

By nightfall yesterday people planning to stay in the city were indoors with buckets of water and

wet cloths ready if the deadly, acid fumes escaped again.

The Bhopal police chief reported that investigators had established that negligence and the absence of safety equipment were the reasons behind the fatal leak.

Hindu, Moslem and Christian places of worship were packed yesterday as residents said prayers for the success of the neutralization operation.

Madhya Pradesh State Chief Minister Arjun Singh asked other Indians to pray for the city and said the plan to rid the town of its "deadly menace" was named "Operation Faith," because prayers would save Bhopal's residents.

The Indian government's scientific adviser said there was no chance that the leak would recur and announced elaborate safety precau-

tions including the use of helicopters to spray the factory.

According to two American medical experts hired by Union Carbide, the long-term damage to the eyes and lungs of the survivors of the poison gas leak may not be severe as originally thought. They said there is hope of full recovery for the most serious victims.

Dr. Hans Weill, professor and chairman of pulmonary medicine at Tulane Medical College, and Dr. Peter Halberg, ophthalmology professor at New York Medical College, addressed a news conference here Friday.

Both were sent to Bhopal as consultants for the U.S.-based Union Carbide, which faces claims for billions of dollars in lawsuits charging that negligence by the firm caused the tragedy.

Turkish PM renews call for dialogue with Greece

ANKARA (AP). — Premier Turgut Ozal said yesterday that Turkey will continue to seek a dialogue with Greece to resolve their disputes, although he noted that the Greek government had not met such overtures this year.

When he came to power a year ago, Ozal proposed that Turkey and Greece shelve their long-standing disputes for a while and concentrate instead on economic cooperation and improved trade relations to improve the atmosphere.

Ozal said he still did not give up hope that "the Greek premier will one day shake his hand of friendship we have been extending with all sincerity."

Asked whether Turkey would

consider to take its disputes with Greece to the UN, the premier ruled it out, saying, "These are bilateral problems to be solved through bilateral negotiations."

But Ozal said he was pleased that leaders of the Turkish and Greek communities of Cyprus will start direct talks as a result of an agreement obtained by UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar last week.

Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash and Cypriot President Spyros Kyprianou will meet January 17 at an undisclosed venue to hammer out a Cyprus settlement along the guidelines of a draft agreement both accepted.

Cuba and U.S. reach deal on returning 'boat people'

WASHINGTON (AP). — About 2,700 Cuban criminals and mental patients will be sent home under an agreement reached Friday by the Reagan administration with the Castro government.

In return for taking back the unwanted "boat people," Cuba was granted regular emigration rights — even though the 23-year break in diplomatic relations between the two countries was not repaired.

White House Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes said: "The conclusion of an agreement on this issue does not signal any change in U.S. policy toward Cuba."

"That policy reflects our serious concern about Cuba's international behaviour," Speakes said. "We see

no evidence that Cuba is prepared to change that behaviour."

The spokesman said the Cubans would be returned home "in a phased and orderly manner."

It was not clear, however, if the Cubans would be sent home quickly. A judge has ruled they are entitled to a hearing if they wish to remain in the U.S. The Justice Department could move to set aside the ruling.

Speakes stressed that most of the 129,000 so-called "boat people" who left Cuba in 1980 from the port of Mariel had "incorporated themselves into American life."

Cuban President Fidel Castro praised the agreement, but denied that any of the "boat people" were criminals or mentally ill. Cuba's official news agency said.

Ethiopia's head of state on visit to Cuba

MEXICO CITY (AP). — Ethiopia's head of state, Mengistu Haile Mariam, arrived on Friday in Havana for a "friendly and working visit" with Cuban President Fidel Castro, Cuba's official Prensa Latina news agency said.

After a welcome at the airport

from Castro, Mengistu reviewed an honour guard and greeted Havana's diplomatic corps, according to Prensa Latina, which is monitored here. The news agency did not say what the specific purpose of Mengistu's visit was, nor how long he would stay.

CODEX MAIMONI: THE MISHNEH TORAH OF THE RAMBAM



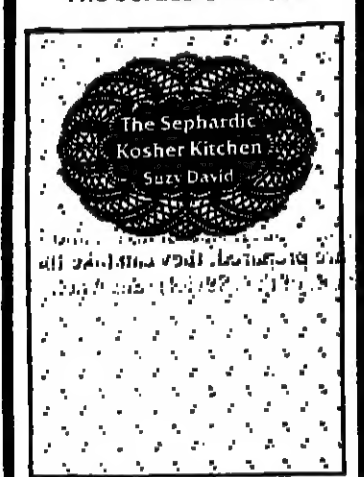
The selections from the Code of Maimonides produced in this book are from the beautiful Kaufmann Codex and convey a clear idea of the style, scope and structure of the Mishneh Torah, enabling the reader to combine meticulous study with artistic pleasure.

This exquisite volume contains the magisterial Code that was completed by Maimonides in Egypt in 1180, copied by a French scribe in 1295, further embellished by a German scribe in Cologne with citations from select post-Maimonidean authorities. The manuscript was bequeathed to the Hungarian Academy of Sciences by Austrian scholar David Kaufmann and today, with this edition, has been made available to English-language readers. CODEX MAIMONI presents 68 of the most beautiful pages from the illuminated codex of the Kaufmann Mishneh Torah, with an introductory essay by Prof. Alexander Scheiber and contributions by Prof. I. Twersky, Prof. J. Blau and Prof. S. Flies. Art historian Gabrielle Sed-Rajna describes the codex in context of art history and provides detailed explanations of the illustrations.

Published by Corvina/Halikon/Strassburger. Leaf size 473 mm x 324 mm (approx. 18 1/2" x 12 3/4"). 176 pages.

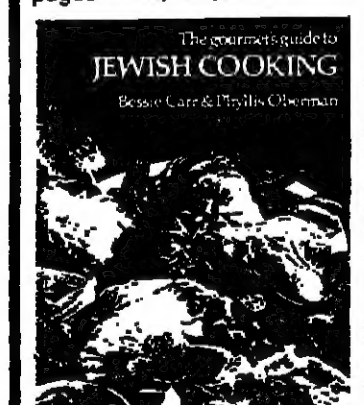
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Food outlook in Africa worsens after poor harvests

ROME (AP). — The outlook for cereal supplies in Africa has deteriorated further because of poor harvests in a number of drought-stricken countries, a UN report said this week.

It listed 21 countries facing "exceptional food supply problems" and said the African "food emergency" will continue in 1985. The report said the food aid requirements of the 21 countries are expected to be much higher than the requirements of the 24 African countries affected in 1983-84.

"Poor 1984 main season crops have already been harvested in a number of countries in Southern and Eastern Africa, while most of the Sahelian countries are just completing the harvesting of seriously drought-reduced crops," the report said.

The interim report on Africa in

the monthly *Food Outlook* by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization said the 1984/85 food aid requirements of the 21 countries are estimated at 5.2 million metric tons, 1.8m. tons more than the food aid they received in 1983/84.

Fifteen of the 24 countries named in a special report on the African food crisis issued September 30 are still on the list. The 15 are Angola, Botswana, Burkina-Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Senegal, Somalia, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Added to the list were Burundi, Kenya, Morocco, Niger, Rwanda and Sudan.

Nine countries were removed from the list: Benin, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Togo, Central African Republic, Sao Tome and Principe and Swaziland.



Suffering from dehydration, a child is too weak to move at a refugee camp in drought-stricken Somalia. (Unipix)

Brazil lowers its coffee export tax

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP). — The Brazilian government reduced the export tax on green coffee by 10 dollars a bag, effective last Wednesday, dropping it to 68 dollars.

The financial newspaper *Gazeta Mercantil* said the move was in response to "pressure from buyers" overseas.

Brazil is the world's No. 1 coffee

grower and exporter, and its main market is the United States.

The minimum export price of \$1.33 a pound for the best grades of green coffee was kept unchanged, as were minimum prices and taxes for instant coffee. The export tax on non-instant coffee began the year at \$99.50 per 132-pound (60 kilo) bag, fell to \$93 in March and was cut again to \$78 in October.

Inflation in the West static at 5.1%

PARIS (Reuters). — Consumer price inflation in the leading western economies stabilized at an average rate of 5.1 per cent a year in October, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said yesterday.

This was unchanged from the revised September rate, which had originally been announced as five per cent.

Food price rises were restrained by weak international commodity markets, while energy prices, especially outside North America, rose faster due to the strong dollar, the OECD said. Oil is priced in dollars.

The figures, which are not seasonally adjusted, also showed that monthly inflation in the 24-nation bloc slowed slightly, to 0.5 per cent in October from 0.6 per cent in September, but remained above the 0.3 per cent level in each of the previous three months.

Among the seven leading industrial nations, Italy continued to have the highest annual inflation rate of 9.4 per cent, followed by France with seven per cent, Britain five per cent, the U.S. 4.2 per cent, Canada 3.4 per cent, Japan 2.2 per cent and West Germany 2.1 per cent.

Turkish inflation slows down in Nov.

ANKARA (Reuters). — Turkey's wholesale price index, the main inflation indicator, rose 2.2 per cent in November, down from 2.5 per cent in October, government figures published Thursday showed.

The rise compared with a 4.7 per cent increase in November 1983 and brought the year-on-year rise down to 52.5 per cent from 56.1 per cent last month. The index figures were not given.

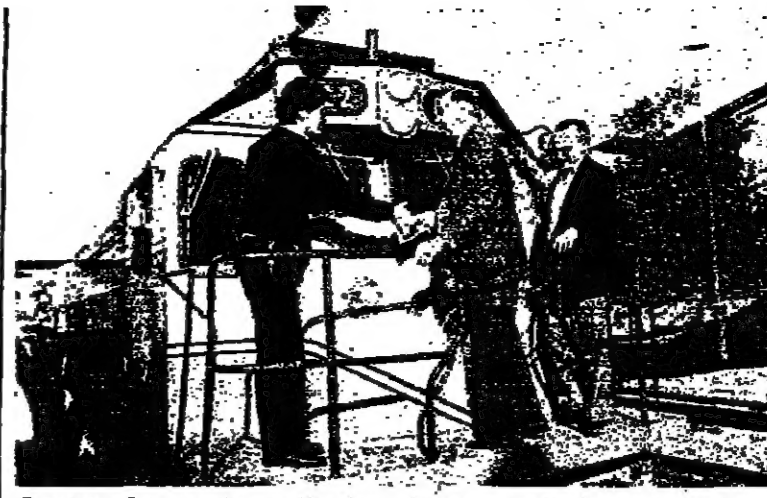
The figures, from the Undersecretariat for Trade and Treasury, also showed inflation in the first 11 months of 1984 to be 44.4 per cent.

Prime Minister Turgut Ozal originally aimed for 25 per cent inflation by year-end and in September forecast it would not go over 40 per cent.

Soviet industrial output up 4.3 per cent

MOSCOW (Reuters). — Soviet industrial output for the first 11 months of 1984 was up 4.3 per cent on the same period last year, the official Communist Party newspaper *Pravda* said last week.

Detailed figures were not given, but *Pravda* said coal and oil production were still falling short of planned levels, as was production of synthetic fibres, plastics and cement.



Coming close to the realization of every boy's dream — to be a locomotive driver — President Chaim Herzog shakes the hand of a driver during a recent tour of Israel Railways installations in Haifa. Behind the President is Zvi Tzafir, general manager of the Railways. (Israel Sun)

Argentina's Grinspun convinces banks

ZURICH (Reuters). — Argentine Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun said he was optimistic that commercial banks would support his country's bid for a \$17.4 billion debt restructuring.

After a day of talks with major creditors, Grinspun told a news conference: "The climate at today's meeting was very good. Bankers asked questions, mainly of a technical nature, but there was no sign of any apparent reluctance."

The talks were the start of a world tour by Argentine officials to convince more than 300 creditor banks to give Argentina new loans of \$4.2 billion and delay repayment of just over \$13 billion.

After the meeting, at which Grinspun spoke to bankers from some 60 banks from Switzerland, Britain, Italy and The Netherlands, one Swiss banker said: "He convinced everyone. There were still some questions, but the mood was optimistic."

Another banker said he believed virtually all banks would meet a deadline of this Wednesday for commercial banks to inform Citibank, the U.S. bank coordinating the package, of their commitment to the new loan arrangements.

Britain's biggest union defies courts

LONDON (Reuters). — The High Court this week invoked a medieval procedure unused for decades to try to force Britain's biggest trade union to pay a big fine.

The court ordered an obscure official called the Queen's Remembrancer to collect a £200,000 (\$240,000) fine from the Transport and General Workers' Union.

The office of the Queen's Remembrancer dates back to the 11th century — his job is debt-collector to the crown. Legal experts said that for decades the post had been ceremonial.

Thai international orders two extra Airbus

PARIS (Reuters). — Thai International Airways has ordered two more A300 Airbus jets from the European plane-making consortium, an Airbus Industrie official said last week.

Thai International already operates ten earlier model A-300s and has on order a further plane in addition to the two new jets.

The latest order makes Thai International the biggest Airbus operator in Asia and the third-largest worldwide, behind Eastern Airlines of the U.S. and Air France.

The official would not give financial details of the contract, but said the financing was being handled by the Japanese Leasing Corporation of Tokyo.

South Korea's car exports up
SEOUL (AP). — South Korea's exports of four-wheel vehicles in the first 11 months of this year rose 141 per cent from a year ago, to 46,000, with increased sales promotions in Canada, Britain and Qatar, the Trade and Industry Ministry said Thursday.

The total included 43,308 passenger cars, up 276 per cent from the same period last year, but truck exports of 2,334 were down 5,000 units.

Domestic auto sales for the 11 months were 192,481, up 6 per cent.

Early Christmas shopping boosts Nov. figures U.S. retail sales rising

WASHINGTON (AP). — Retail sales in the U.S., bolstered by early Christmas shoppers, climbed a strong 1.8 per cent in November, the sharpest gain since April.

The Commerce Department said sales hit a record \$110.3 billion last month, 8.5 per cent above the level of a year ago.

The November increase followed a tiny 0.1 per cent rise in October, which originally had been reported as a 0.1 per cent decline.

The drop in consumer demand since July has been cited as a primary reason for the sudden slowdown in economic growth. The country's total output of goods and services, the Gross National Product, grew at an

annual rate of only 1.9 per cent in the third quarter, after racing ahead at an 8.6 per cent pace in the first six months of the year.

Analysts, however, are hoping that a strong Christmas selling season will help lift economic growth back into a range of 4 per cent next year.

The news on retail sales was the second bright economic report in the past week. The government on Friday said the civilian unemployment rate fell to 7.2 per cent in November, down from 7.4 per cent in October. It was the sharpest drop since June and was taken as a sign that the recent economic slump will not turn into a recession.

WALL STREET WEEK

Predictions of recession remain a matter of talk

NEW YORK (AP). — Persistent talk of an economic recession in the U.S. is taking some of the edge off Wall Street's year-end holiday spirits this year.

It is still a minority view in the financial world that the U.S. is headed for an "official" recession — defined as at least two consecutive quarters of decline in the gross national product after adjustment for inflation.

And few analysts are talking about the possibility of anything so sinister as the 1981-82 slump in business activity.

But there has been some speculation that the slowing of the U.S. economy since last summer might be the harbinger of a rough period ahead. Most market-watchers agree the spectre of that possibility has recently had a chilling effect on stock prices.

"Most economists aren't looking for a recession in 1985," Standard and Poor's Corp. noted in its investment advisory publication *The Outlook*. "But some, whose ranks seem to be growing, are."

S and P analysts said they remained in the majority camp, pointing out that there is little present evidence of the conditions that often precede a recession — such as rising inflation and interest rates, bloated business inventories and a general atmosphere of overconfidence.

The S and P study and the current state of the market suggest some, independent conclusions. If there is going to be a severe recession, stock prices do not appear to have signaled it yet.

With its rise of 12.70 points to 1,175.91 in the past week, the Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks stands only a little more than 100 points below the record closing high of 1,287.20 it reached on November 29, 1983.

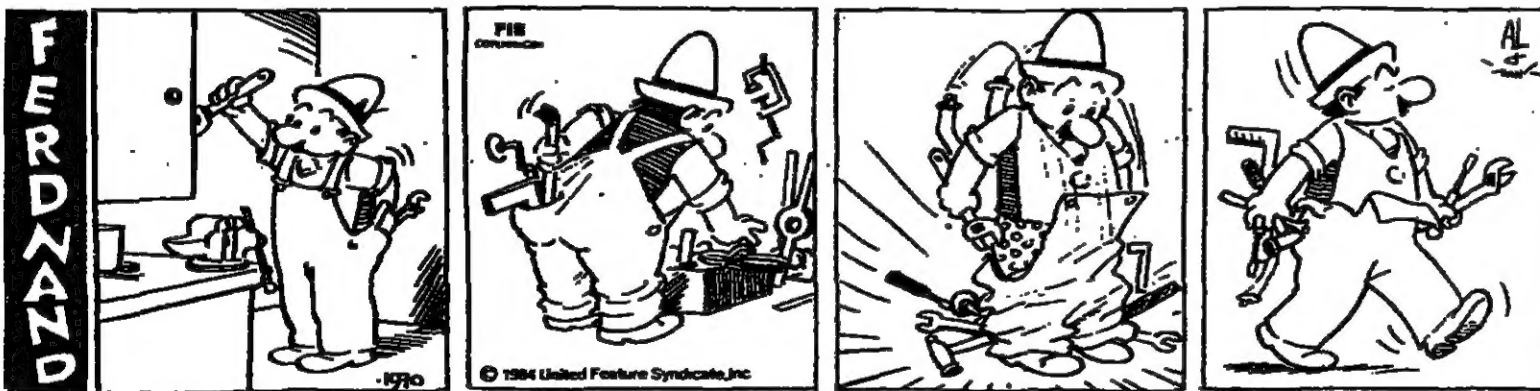
Other readings for the week showed the New York Stock Exchange composite index up .42 at 93.92, and the American Stock Exchange market value index down 1.40 at 200.60.

Big Board volume averaged 83.20 million shares a day, against 88.56 million the week before.

"Not all stocks are affected by a recession in the same way, of course," S and P observed.

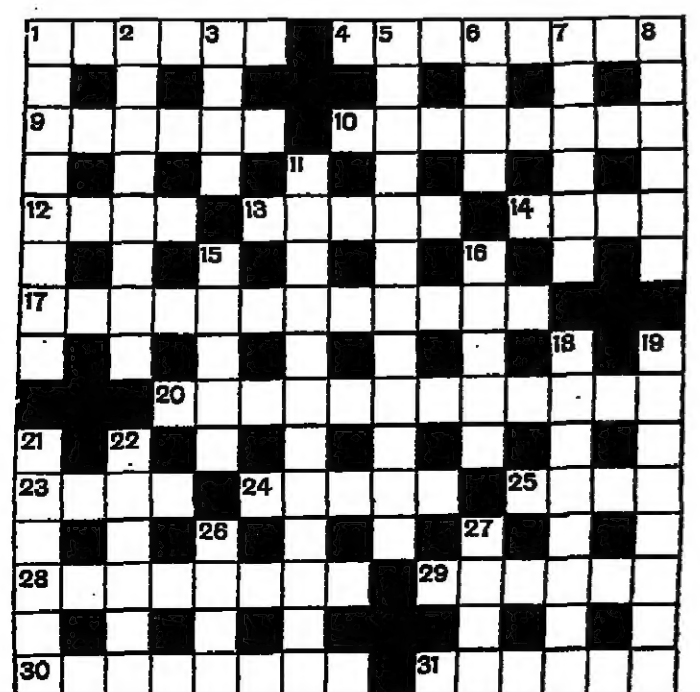
"Typically, the poorest performers are the so-called cyclical, the shares of companies whose sales and profit swings most closely parallel the general economic cycle."

"The stocks of companies enjoying strong underlying growth and of those which provide products and services so vital that demand for them fluctuates only minimally are usually among the better performers during recessions."



ONE-AND-ONE CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- The Circle Line speculation? (6)
 - Mishap puts insurance department heads in stress (8)
 - This fruit is dry, yet it is downpour (5)
 - Obsessed with single theme, like monotonous record (3-5)
 - Rugby forward's tuft of hair (4)
 - Word processor for the treasury? (5)
 - Medical investigation in study (4)
 - It could help chap shoot par. if controlled (8, 4)
 - Medium chance of success in 12 (12)
 - Quiet ballad in 28, for example (4)
 - Retired soldier has WC fitted in "Bleak House" (5)
 - Cliff and Mark (4)
 - Who needs foresight? Sack merchant! (8)
 - Bad actor allowed in this play? Improbably! (5)
 - Out of port, for home countries prizes (8)
 - Large bills used, reputedly with their deliveries (6)
- DOWN**
- Novice incline to follow this Austrian climber? (8)
 - Projector has to manage with mince-pies (8)
 - Portuguese coins buried in Treasure Island (4)
 - Cartoon's vein is unusual, making if this sort of piece? (12)
 - In Greece, for White (4)
 - Metropolitan reformed chief (6)
 - After putting, it is the other half of the game-winning? (6)
 - Piano recital has splendid support (7, 5)
 - Lathered condition of retired person in outskirts of Surrey (5)
 - Precious stone, best from beginning to end (5)
 - O, for this sort of latter (8)
 - Describing me retired — i.e. rust-affected? (8)
 - Deck-games etc., left on board (6)
 - Crazy affair in the grass (6)
 - Table Mountain — see me at South Africa (4)
 - Shoot the river (4)



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FLIGHTS

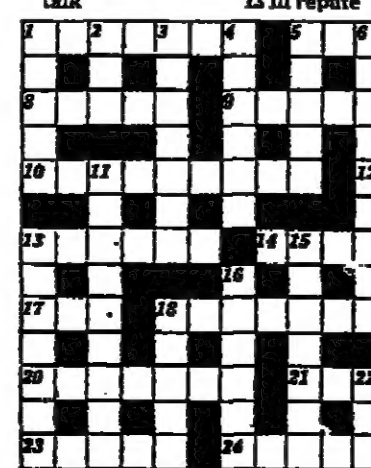
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QUICK CROSSWORD

8 Wedlock
9 Real box (anag.)
10 Strong verbal attack
11 Lawyer
12 Deny
13 Myological legs bound to a wheel
14 Offspring of tiger and lioness
15 Sewing instruments



Friday's Solutions

ACROSS
1. Hero
2. Repeated
3. Nautical
4. Rascal
5. Camera
6. Tormentor
7. Favourite
8. Thirst
9. Shakes
10. Dreamer
11. Headliner
12. Double
13. String
14. Darkened
15. Sincerely
16. Thin

DOWN
1. Handcuffs
2. On the ground
3. Related
4. Plaster
5. Ancient monument
6. Doodle
7. Chair
8. Suspense
9. Stinger
10. Tuesday
11. Order
12. Horse

Bank of Israel exchange rates

December 14 1984	IS
U.S. dollar	605.68
British sterling	721.49
German mark	195.40
French franc	63.722
Dutch guilder	173.08
Swiss franc	236.80
Swedish krona	68.411
Norwegian krone	67.617
Danish krone	54.603
Finnish mark	94.035
Canadian dollar	458.81
Australian dollar	508.01
South African rand	325.86
Belgian franc (10)	97.204
Austrian schilling (10)	278.22
Italian lire (100)	317.26
Japanese yen (100)	244.42
Irish pound	609.62
Spanish peseta (100)	352.50
Jordanian dinar	1490.0
Lebanese lira	70.030
Egyptian pound	466.37

We regret publication of the wrong diagram for the two-in-one crossword on Friday, and apologise to those of our readers part of whose weekend may have been spoiled as a result. For the benefit of those who struggled with the puzzle regardless, here are the solutions:

Friday's Solutions

ACROSS
1. Hero
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7. Chair
8. Suspense
9. Stinger
10. Tuesday
11. Order
12. Horse

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"TURBO PAZ", 1 UNIT		1942.2252	1966.4591		
S.D.R.		594.6370	682.0565		

FOREIGN CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATES				FOR 14.12.84	
COUNTRY	CURRENCY	CHEQUES AND TRANSACTIONS	PURCHASE	SALE	BANKNOTES
U.S.A.	DOLLAR	1	601.9447	609.4553	596.6100 617.8100
GREAT BRITAIN	STERLING	1	716.3141	725.2518	709.9600 725.1900
GERMANY	MARK	1	194.3010	196.7254	192.5700 199.4300
FRANCE	FRANC	1	63.2793	64.0689	60.5200 64.9500
HOLLAND	GULDEN	1	171.7878	173.9313	170.2600 176.3200
SWITZERLAND	FRANC	1	235.2644	238.3012	233.2700 241.5700
SWEDEN	KRONA	1	68.0394	68.8384	66.5500 69.8300
NORWAY	KRONE	1	67.1963	68.0348	65.7300 68.9700
DENMARK	KRONE	1	54.2439	54.9207	53.0600 55.6700
FINLAND	MARK	1	93.4696	94.6359	91.4300 95.9300
CANADA	DOLLAR	1	455.2255	460.9055	447.5800 467.2200
AUSTRALIA	DOLLAR	1	503.9202	510.2179	481.4800 521.8700
SOUTH AFRICA RAND		1	328.9315	333.0357	327.1100 351.7800
BELGIUM	FRANC	10	96.6513	97.8573	
AUSTRIA	SCHILLING 100		276.2461	279.6950	273.7900 283.5300
ITALY	LIRE	1000	314.8893	318.9196	298.1400 323.3900
JAPAN	YEN	100	242.7196	245.7481	240.5600 249.1200

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Sports

National League

Oded steals the show

By PAUL KOHN
Post Sports Reporter
TEL AVIV. — The National League leaders, Maccabi Haifa and Betar Jerusalem, both won their home games yesterday by 3-1 in a round of matches in which 27 goals were scored, a record number of first division goals this season.

But their traditional victories were eclipsed. Top award of the day goes to Oded Machness and the game in Netanya, in which Maccabi Petah Tikva hammered the local Maccabi 5-2. This was the first time that Machness had lined up against Maccabi Netanya, the team for whom he has played since his youth and for whom he was its most prolific goal-scorer until his transfer at the start of the season.

To prove himself to the Netanya fans, some of whom waved posters saying "Welcome Oded" and even carried him off shoulder high, Machness scored off his first touch. The other Machness twin, Gad, also played well. The Netanya defence had no answer to the foraging Oded, though their centre forward David Lavie tried not to be outdone and scored two goals to go to the top of the National League goalscorers with a tally of 10.

Yavne, who until recently was the club's third choice goalie, gained his place in the side following the suspension of Yaacov Beladev from three league games because of involvement in the national youth team misdemeanours in Koblenz last October.

The sizzler of a match was watched by 7,000. Petah Tikva put on their best display for many a year. Eyal Begleiter added verve and flair to Machness's talent. The other Machness twin, Gad, also played well. The Netanya defence had no answer to the foraging Oded, though their centre forward David Lavie tried not to be outdone and scored two goals to go to the top of the National League goalscorers with a tally of 10.

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MINE THIS TIME — Shlomo Nordman the Hakoah goalkeeper keeps the hungry Betar Jerusalem forwards Moshe Zeitoun and Eli Ohana at bay but Zeitoun had his appetite satiated somewhat with two goals in the 3-1 Jerusalem win. (Rahamim Israeli)

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Intriguing field in Kinneret marathon tomorrow

By JACK LEON
Post Sports Reporter
TEL AVIV. — Sixty-eight-year-old Midge Sharples, Britain's oldest woman marathon runner, will be among the 600 starters for the eighth Sea of Galilee International Marathon. The Israel Athletic Association's annual 42-km. race round the southern perimeter of Lake Kinneret this time starts and finishes at the Tiberias Plaza Hotel, the main sponsors and headquarters of the event.

For Glasgow-born Sharples, this will be her 21st marathon since her first run over the classic distance 3½ years ago. Incredibly, she did three of these races last September within the space of four weeks. She then completed the month with her maiden triathlon, consisting of a 600m. swim, 15-mile cycle ride and 8½-mile run. Sharples, who has five children, then went on to participate in three half-marathons in October. Earlier in 1984, she ran the London Marathon in 4 hours, 47 minutes, her best time yet for this most testing of all long-distance races.

Long a keen rambler both in Britain and abroad — her husband was a high-ranking British diplomat —

Sharples took up athletics in 1979 with short runs of up to five kms. in order to get fit for a scheduled walk up the foothills of Mount Everest. "It worked, and I managed to get as high as 15,000 feet up the mountain," she told me last Thursday evening after completing a 9-km. road race in Netanya in the teeth of a raging sandstorm interspersed by heavy showers.

Returning home from Nepal, she found herself "really bitten by the running bug," and so soon graduated to marathons. She gained public attention in 1981, when she made her debut in the race at the inaugural London Marathon.

Sharples is here as a member of the 35-strong British group participating in the first "International Running Tour of Israel," which is being organized by the Israel Association of Veterans Runners.

Another Scot, Lindsay Robertson, has been rated the No. 1 runner in tomorrow's race by the IAA, by virtue of having achieved a time of 2:15.55 this year. Second is England's Dave Robson, who clocked 2:16.34 in Glasgow last September.

Other ranked runners include Gerry Stanton of Ireland and the 1981 winner Colin Kirkham of England who has actually the fastest-ever time in the field. His 2:15.12 was run back in 1972, however.

A big disappointment will be the absence of Israel's longtime marathon champions Yair Karni and Zehava Shmueli. Karni is preparing for the 5,000m. and 10,000m. track races at next July's Maccabiah Games, while Shmueli is saving herself for the London Marathon this spring.

Although Shmueli is not competing in the race, she will be appearing

in the role of escort for blind war veteran David Yakubovitz, 30. An experienced athlete, the Ayalot Running Club member will be the first blind runner to take part in a full marathon in Israel. Shmueli will divide the job of escorting Yakubovitz with Yehzekiel Halifa and Ofer Binenberg.

In the absence of Shmueli, favourite for the title among the 26 women entries is Sweden's Siv Larsson, another member of the International Running Tour group, with a best marathon of 2:52. Following Larsson is Rose Sadon, of Kibbutz Hoshim (3:16.53), who has had a phenomenally successful athletic career since taking up serious running in 1982, following the birth of her third child.

The meet is being organized by the IAA in cooperation with the Tiberias Municipality and local intercity association, who sponsors the race. The Tiberias Club Hotel and the Tiberias Hot Springs.

BASKETBALL: NBA results Friday — Boston 117 Utah 105; Detroit 120 Indiana 96; New Jersey 111 Chicago 109; Dallas 119 San Antonio 102; Kansas City 123 Denver 117; Golden State 105 Portland 92. THURSDAY'S GAMES: Seattle 124 LA Lakers 122; LA Clippers 106 Portland 100; New York 119 LA 115 in OT; Houston 90 Atlanta 93; Phoenix 116 Washington 90.

ICE HOCKEY: NHL results Friday — Winnipeg 4 Toronto 4; Detroit 4 Buffalo 4. THURSDAY'S GAMES: Vancouver 5 Montreal 4; Los Angeles 7 Edmonton 2; Boston 5 Quebec 5; New Jersey 4 St. Louis 4.

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Triathlon attraction

New York triathlon specialist Daniel Honig will tomorrow be putting on an exhibition of the three-discipline sport in aid of the Israeli Sports Centre for the Handicapped. The Plaza Hotel and several American sponsors have agreed to donate one dollar to the Israeli Sports Centre for the Handicapped in every kilometre Honig completes in his proposed 175-km. stint.

He starts out at 4 a.m. with a 2-km. swim in the chilly waters of the Kinneret, then will cycle round the lake twice — a distance of 130 kms. — before joining the anticipated 170 overseas participants in the Marathon.

Other ranked runners include Gerry Stanton of Ireland and the 1981 winner Colin Kirkham of England who has actually the fastest-ever time in the field. His 2:15.12 was run back in 1972, however.

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Still in the dark

THE 19.5 PER CENT rise in the consumer price index for November has not surprised anybody. Simple arithmetic demanded that, prices having risen in October by 24.3 per cent, at least half of that increase would be carried over to the average rate of inflation in November. The additional 7.8 per cent that may have represented accelerated price increases in the second half of October, as well as officially authorized and unauthorized price increases at the beginning of November, is relatively modest in comparison with the inflation fever that raged until the package deal was concluded.

The question that confronts policy-makers now is not what rate of inflation inherited from October was reflected in November's average price rise, but what is to be expected for December. There is every indication that the public responded almost instantaneously, and in the right direction, to the changed circumstances under the package deal.

A primary result of that deal has been a sharp erosion in the real wages preceding it, which will be gradually restored only if prices remain stable. This has pulled down demand to the point where retailers have quickly gone on sales campaigns, cutting their prices on a wide range of products below the officially authorized levels. At the same time, there has been no sign of an attempt by the public to prop up its customary consumption standards by diverting savings to current consumption. The rush into foreign currency has been reversed; shekel deposits have increased sharply, and the authorities seem to have been successful in recycling huge amounts from saving schemes that have fallen due. In short, the public seems to be saving more in the face of uncertainty and in response to relative stability, however temporary.

Moreover, there is no sign that the record amounts of cash that the government has had to inject into the economy — a predictable result of shrinking revenues, in anticipation of recession, combined with the paralysis of the tax system — have generated inflationary pressures on the demand side.

On the contrary, if the first six weeks of the package deal have created new pressures on the price level, with the danger of an eruption once the deal expires, they have all been on the cost side. There are three causes for this: the government's insistence on continuing to devalue the currency while freezing the shekel prices of imports, its keeping interest rates far above the level justified by a price freeze, and, third, the continued rise in nominal wages — albeit at half the rate of inflation before the package deal.

At the midpoint of the package deal, it is now clear that in the face of these cost pushes, the current relative stability could have been maintained only by the "advance" on price increases that producers took, or were given, when the package deal was concluded.

Official circles keep on telling the public officially — and unofficially, through inspired leaks — that there will be a second round of the package deal, and that it will be different from the first. But this difference remains a secret hidden in the plethora of working papers, position papers, policy proposals, bright ideas and nostrums that are being shuffled across the desks in the Treasury, the Bank of Israel, the Economics Ministry's Planning Authority and other high places.

If the package deal has demonstrated anything, it is that the public responds rationally to changed circumstances and that it changed its expectations almost overnight. Just as it responded with stabilizing behaviour to a stabilizing policy measure, however inconsistent and temporary, so it is likely to respond with a destabilizing attitude to a new upward push to inflation — which seems to be what the Treasury is most eager to do in any Package Deal II.

Whatever the solution on which the government, with or without the consent of the Histadrut and private employers, finally settles, it cannot and should not repeat the last-minute makeshift agreement that was hammered out six weeks ago. Six weeks into the present agreement has been time enough to tie up the loose ends that dangled from the edges of the first package deal.

The second round is overdue. The public is entitled to a definition of the rules of the game, not for six weeks or four, but for a year or two, if not longer. No amount of airy talk about an imminent renewal of growth, about mobilizing the help of Jews abroad, of French technology, U.S. emergency aid and Israeli brainpower will be of any use as long as economic policy treads water. Nor will undefined threats of hard times to come.

The first 100 days of the national unity government are over. The time limit for presenting the public with a coherent economic programme has long gone by. Unless a clearly defined policy is formulated and presented within a matter of days, not weeks, the end of the present package deal may well signal a replay of the inflation fever and the rush into foreign currency that preceded it.

Choices facing Soviet Jews

By EITAN FINKELSTEIN

well aware of the fact that for a loyal citizen, contacts with them could be fraught with serious trouble.

Refuseniks are extremely careful, even in their contacts with close relatives who do not wish to emigrate. If such relatives do not exist, then activist-refuseniks cut themselves off completely from the main body of Soviet Jewry and confine themselves in their own narrow circle. They are even proud of this, stressing that while staying in the USSR, they are, in fact, living in Israel (or the U.S.).

While doing so, however, they easily generalize, applying to the whole of Soviet Jewry both the repression and restrictions to which they are being subjected, as open enemies of the Soviet regime and "semi-

compared to other groups. What then is the real picture of what is happening in the USSR?

SINCE 1977 the Soviet regime has turned towards a systematic and planned effort to destroy everything that is called "dissent" in the West and "anti-Soviet activities" in the USSR. National, religious and human rights movements were suppressed. Practically all the active dissidents, including the once "untouchable" academician Andrei Sakharov, gradually found themselves in prison, camp or in exile. The Jewish movement, however, suffered less than the other movements. Moreover, emigration grew sharply, reaching its highest point in 1979.

against the background of rhetoric calling for "saving Soviet Jewry." It is, no doubt, much easier to prophesy about forthcoming deportation, and it is much easier to call for the liberation of millions than to provide concrete and effective help to Lerner, Kosharovsky, Slepak, Brailovsky and the thousands of others.

LET US, however, go back to the typical representative of the Jewish masses, a law-abiding, loyal citizen living in accordance with the norms and standards of Soviet reality. The situation these people are in differs considerably from that of those who are trying to emigrate, and it is, of course, very different from that of the activist refusenik.

In their way of life ordinary Soviet

'Today the Soviet Jew is passive...the experience of both recent and distant past tells him it would be best for him to remain what he is, a Russian Jew'

foreigners," and also their feelings and their interpretation of anti-Semitism as the threat of a close, almost physical reprisal.

In their world, of course, someone is always being arrested. Homes are searched, and people are called in for questioning. Somebody is always being threatened, somebody is constantly being harassed. And all of them are subjected to torture by time — the denial of the right to emigrate for an undefined period. Some of them do not live to see their relatives and friends again. It is natural that they cannot escape the feeling that clouds have gathered above their heads, that a pogrom may come tomorrow or the day after. Such feelings are typical of all the activists. When they leave, they take this feeling of a pogrom being imminent with them.

An emotional, and sometimes nearly hysterical, perception of the situation does not, however, adequately reflect the events taking place in the USSR. The now prevalent view of a sharp intensification in Soviet anti-Semitism, of a nearly pre-pogrom situation in the USSR is a characteristic example of their incorrect evaluation of the situation.

It seems that there are enough grounds to support such an evaluation: the arrests, the searches, the intimidation of activists are all a continuous process. The Soviet mass media continue their anti-Israeli campaign, just as they did in the past, and all kinds of libellous lampoons are being published in thousands of copies. But let us set aside the question of whether there is anything new in these phenomena and whether they present more of a threat today than they did in 1970, 1973 or 1977.

The really important question is whether they do indeed reflect a sharp intensification of anti-Semitism in the USSR. According to its proper definition, "anti-Semitism" means a selective persecution of Jews as such, when

How can this be explained? The Soviet authorities were well aware of the difference between the Jewish movement for emigration and the other national movements or the human rights movement. They thought it best to allow the vast majority of those who had already applied for emigration to leave, while treating those who remained in the USSR according to the new policy line.

By 1982 the wave of repression reached the Jewish activists, who became yet another victim of the change in the internal situation in the USSR. At the same time, it is extremely important to take into account the fact that the Soviet authorities did not actually stop the mechanism of emigration. The Ovir offices still accept applications to emigrate to Israel, etc.

The brunt of the repression is directed against the active struggle for emigration, but not against emigration as such. The Soviet authorities obviously want to have the emigration process under their complete control, but there are no signs whatsoever to indicate that they intend to put an end to the possibility of leaving the country. The present decline in emigration is, rather, a tactical move of the Soviet authorities in their games with the U.S. administration.

This, of course, does not much affect those already in prison or in camp or those who have been waiting for an exit visa for years. It is here that there is a concrete and most important job to be done — the task of helping those subjected to repression and persecution and those who have been fighting for ten years and more for their right to leave the country.

There are many direct and indirect ways of helping these people or, at least, of easing their fate, but this task of primary importance gets lost and sounds small and insignificant

Jews do not at all differ from regular Soviet citizens. They are concerned with the problems of everyday life; they are not connected in any way with the world outside the USSR. They do not meet with foreigners, and they also do not have anything to do with KGB. They also see anti-Semitism in a different light.

For the vast majority of Soviet Jews, anti-Semitism is a routine occurrence; it is a norm of life. These people were born and grew up with the realization that they are Jews and therefore not everything in life is accessible to them. Moreover, they know that the system of restrictions can be by-passed. From childhood they learn the art of doing this, and when they reach their youth, it even attracts them in some way.

However, at a mature age every Jew begins to realize that only insignificant obstacles can be overcome, that he will have to take up a subordinate position for the rest of his life and that he will never be able to achieve the things which, in his opinion, he really deserves. Such a person perceives anti-Semitism as a system of restrictions and a system of exploitation.

As for anti-Israeli and, indirectly, anti-Semitic propaganda, it certainly annoys him, but it is not perceived by him as a direct threat. This happens, first of all, because he does not relate to this propaganda as something that concerns him personally. Life has confirmed that he is right. Since Stalin's death and since the infamous "Doctors' Plot," there has not been any open persecution of a mass character directed against law-abiding, loyal Soviet Jews.

But this does not at all mean that a typical member of this majority does not suffer from a great number of large and small, direct and indirect restrictions. Things accessible to everyone are given to him as a favour. He worries especially about his children, who will, no doubt,

receive their share of humiliations and insults. Not everyone perceives this situation as something that goes without saying. Many react to it with deeply felt dissatisfaction and indignation.

This can explain why, when in the beginning of the 1970s Zionist activists opened the path for emigration, tens of thousands of people who never even thought about moving to Israel, the U.S. or any other country, headed for the Ovir offices to ask for emigration permits. No matter what they said at that time, many of them were not trying so much to become Israelis. Americans or anything else, but were trying to express their protest, to spit in the face of the existing regime. At the same time, they did hope to reach a land where they could find harmony and certainty, while remaining themselves. Have their hopes been fulfilled?

ALREADY by the mid-Seventies, at the very height of mass emigration, there was a virtual avalanche of letters from Israel to the USSR, most of them expressing dissatisfaction and disappointment. What most impressed ordinary Soviet Jews was the mass re-emigration of former Soviet citizens from Israel.

The "second time" emigrants included representatives of all professions, all ages, former residents of all Soviet republics and cities. And when Soviet Jews heard that "half a million Israelis" born in Israel had left the country, or that somewhere in Los Angeles, there were "more Israelis than in Rehovot," many of them became convinced that Israel was not the country where one should be going.

It did not matter how informed he was about the details of living in Israel. It is difficult, in any case, to imagine a person who would wish to move to a house whose residents are running away in all directions.

Of course, there is always America, but everyone in the USSR knows that only the young, the strong and those not burdened by serious problems can make it to America. America remains as inaccessible as it is tempting.

A popular opinion today among Soviet Jews is that emigration merely means exchanging one set of problems for another, with the new problems being no less grave and serious. Today the average Soviet Jew is likely to come to the conclusion that emigration is not a game worth such high stakes.

What are the masses of Jews waiting for? What does the average Soviet Jew hope for? Today he is equally a long way off both from the intention to become assimilated no matter what, and from the intention to emigrate from the USSR no matter how. He has before him the bitter experience of assimilation: the tens of thousands of Jewish Communists who were shot or who perished in prisons and camps, patriots of their socialist homeland who cut all ties with Jewishness but who were subsequently "unmasked" as "enemies of the people," "cosmopolitans" and spies.

On the other hand, he sees the difficult life of emigrants, his erstwhile friends and acquaintances who have scattered all around the world, seeking a place under the sun. Today the Soviet Jew is passive, he is waiting and going with the stream. As far as his preferences are concerned, the experience of both recent and distant past tells him that it would be best for him to remain what he is, a Russian Jew.

Perhaps he would like to see, as best for him, the democratization of Soviet society, the end of anti-Semitism as an expression of state policy, the improvement of the economic situation and, as a result of all this, the restoration of Jewish life in the USSR, at least to some extent.

The tragedy of Soviet Jewry lies, however, in the fact that it is not in control of its own fate. Its fate is being decided behind its back.

The writer, a physician, was born in the USSR and began his struggle for an emigration permit in 1970. An active participant both in Soviet Jewry's movement to emigrate to Israel and in scientific and cultural seminars in Moscow and Vilna, he published in the West (while he was still in the Soviet Union) articles on the problems of Soviet Jewry, human rights, emigration and absorption. He is the author of the book How to emigrate to Israel from the Soviet Union. He has lived in Israel since December 1983.

AN ORDINARY Soviet Jew. one representative of the main mass of Soviet Jewry, is far removed from all this. Moreover, he simply cannot afford to maintain contacts with any activist refuseniks for fear of KGB repression. It is not surprising, therefore, that except for rare exceptions, new people appear in the homes of refuseniks only after they themselves have decided to emigrate. The activists-refuseniks are

READERS' LETTERS

THE GOVERNMENT'S GAMBLE

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir. — There is a consensus of opinion in the country as evidenced by the many articles in The Jerusalem Post as to what has to be done in order to cure our economic ills, namely:

- 1) Cut the budget by at least \$2 billion
- 2) Dismiss between 50-100 thousand civil servants
- 3) Abolish all subsidies
- 4) Revamp the whole tax structure
- 5) Stop printing money

The unity government seems unable or unwilling to do what about 80 per cent of the country wishes. Instead, it has decided to gamble in hope that increased U.S. aid would bail us out. Unfortunately, the gamble cannot work. If the economic policy of the government does not work, as a lot of knowledgeable people are already predicting, then heaven help us; if the policy does work we will be even deeper in debt to the U.S. just when President Reagan is starting a new term in office and the demands for a political compromise will put our security at risk.

Surely it is not worth taking a heads-I-win tails-you-lose gamble when we do not have to. We must insist that the government does what the people wish before it is too late. Ra'anana. ELLAN HIRSHFELD

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir. — In response to letters under the heading "Who does Sharon Represent" (December 6), I would like to remind Rabbi Dr. Chaim Pearl, along with those of the same mind, that in all Christian countries, each and every one of us is a representative of the Jewish people, and each and every one of us represents the State of Israel. Like it or not, we are our brothers' keepers, in the eyes of our Christian neighbours, friends and colleagues.

Despite being a second generation Jewish Canadian, I was deemed personally guilty and responsible for the 1956 war in Sinai, by my Christian co-workers, when I was respectfully employed in a distinguished, scientific, military branch of the Canadian

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir. — When reading erudite economists explaining Israel's economic predicament, one cannot help but be reminded of an old German joke about military experts giving twenty various reasons why in a certain battle the Prussians did not use cannons, one of the reasons being that they didn't have any.

When in this fiscal year Israel has to repay the U.S. almost \$6 billion in principal and interest, a sum which exceeds Israel's industrial exports and exceeds by far this year's American aid, one can stop looking for other reasons for Israel's financial difficulties.

Clearly, the only radical way out of this situation would be the transformation of this loan into a grant. This idea is not utopian and has been discussed in American government circles. As a matter of fact, after Camp David, American aid was offered as a grant, but Begin refused, preferring a loan.

It appears that the main opposition to transforming debts into grants is due to Israel's fear that this would undermine its credit on international financial markets. This may have been true in the past, but right now Israel's enormous debt is a much bigger factor in determining Israel's credit rating.

Dr. JACOB ROSIN

NETANYA. government. I was told that I (representing the Jewish people and the Jewish state) had always caused, and continue to cause the Christian world a great deal of trouble. How much clearer did the message have to be? I decided that it was time to join my fellow "trouble-makers", and made plans for my aliya.

Rehovot. RIVA COHEN

PENFRIENDS. ANTHONY MARSHALL (26) of unit 241 Brownfield St., Mordialloc 3195, Australia would like to correspond with Israelis in Hebrew. He works as a computer operator and his interests are hiking and photography.

RESPECTING ZIONISM

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir. — It grieves me to read Joseph Blumstein's letter on "Tora over Zionism" (November 16). Being of Orthodox persuasion myself, contrary to your correspondent's intentions, he convinced me of the folly of the Jewish Agency's allotment of funds to this type of yeshiva.

It is irrelevant whether Mr. Blumstein gave up his prosperous pickling business in Johannesburg, though I wish he wouldn't have done so in order to take advantage of this very Zionism he and his like so much despise — those Zionists, who through their blood and toil made it possible for him to practise his misguided zeal.

Would he in the first place have been able to settle in this country, if not for the Jewish state? Perhaps in

his folly he would have preferred it, like in the time of my youth, he would have been prohibited from living on this sacred soil, and at best be harassed by foreign occupiers and Arabs alike?

Finally, the least I would expect of a yeshiva student would be to observe the dictum "Moza sefaecha tishmor" (Devarim 23-24) — to bite the hand that feeds you adds insult to injury. Bigots of this kind should be treated with the contempt they deserve, and no precious funds wasted on them.

SHMUEL GELLER

Jerusalem. (An abbreviated form of this letter published earlier was, unfortunately, garbled.)

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